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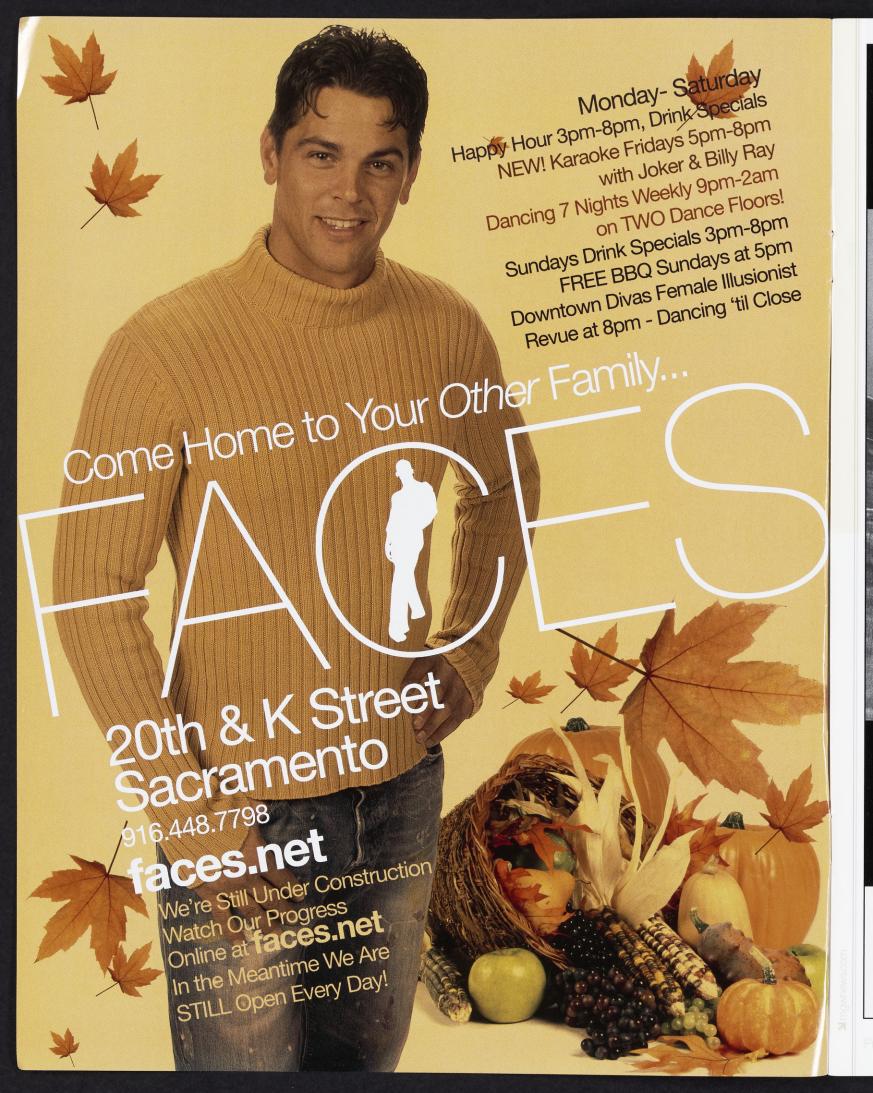
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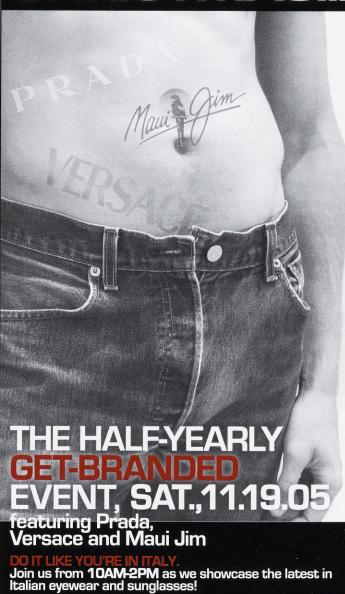
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Come join me.

Sit back, relax close your eyes and envision a community derived by diversity and culture, strengthened by years of adversity. Now also imagine this community adapting, growing and achieving a source of power so great that it knows no boundaries, no borders and most of all no tolerance for cruelty and unjust behavior. Now open your eyes! That community is already here, and MGW is the vessel eagerly awaiting departure into this unique and viable com-

As you turn the pages you will join us on this quest. Beginning in Sacramento Katrina will take you for a hearty dinner at the Texas Steakhouse. Next stop, San Francisco: enjoy the opera with Wayne Anderson. Now as you continue even further into this extraordinary new adventure, you find yourself in Seattle, amazed by the skyline. You are entertained by Aleksa Manila and Damon Phoenix, and intrigued by James Frew.

Remember the day when you first realized you were "different" and how scared you were to let anyone know just how distinctive you were? This type of fear is what people use to create an environment full of hatred, ignorance and intolerance. Now, think of the first time you met someone who was also "different" and how excited and filled with hope you became; so eager to explore and share your experiences; learning from one another through unique characteristics creating a bond and growing; becoming stronger and more diverse. You see, we all have the ability to create a power source. The problem is we don't always know just what to do with it.

For the past 28 years, through opposition, criticism and friendly fire MGW has grown, adapted and become stronger. Each and every experience enhance the knowledge of this community-driven family. Now after more then a quarter century we have learned how to progress. It is time for us to reach out and share this knowledge as

If you take the time to learn about each other's differences, share your thoughts, and accept that we are all different, we can grow. It is time to remove the hatred, ignorance, and intolerance. Join us as we move forward into the next 28 years and beyond.

Jeffry A. Davis

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RESPONSE

PREVIOUS ISSUE





HRC SPEAKS OUT

Yesterday's elections brought both stunning victories and a heartbreaking defeat. Our community won a crucial battle in Maine, fending off an extremist effort to wipe an anti-discrimination law from the books. One of the most viciously anti-gay legislators in America, Delegate Richard Black of Virginia, was defeated. And the first-ever openly gay city councilmember in Columbus, Ohio (and a former HRC board member), Mary Jo Hudson, was elected. These victories were won despite the heartbreaking passage of a

discriminatory constitutional amendment in Texas.

The Human Rights Campaign was there from the beginning, working shoulder to shoulder with the campaigns and statewide groups to help secure these victories. And though the Texas vote was a setback, we won't give up—eventually, equality will win out. Today, we're asking you to join with us to bring fairness and balance back to the country in the 2006 elections.

Our fight goes forward every day and we need you to join us for elections next year and beyond. Let's look

at where things stand. The extreme right has a stronghold on:

The U.S. House; The U.S. Senate; The Bush Administration; And maybe even the Supreme Court.. Civil rights and privacy protections are getting attacked every day, and marriage equality is still being batted around like a political tetherball.

The only way we can start to change this reality is to bring back balance to Congress in 2006. We're only one year away from the 2006 Congressional mid-term elections, and every fair-minded American will have the chance to turn the tide in American politics. With so much at stake for every GLBT American in the 2006 elections, we need you standing with us to take back the U.S. Congress.

Warmly,
Joe Solmonese
HRC President

GOVERNOR SHOULD SEPARATE HIMSELF FROM EXTREMISTS

The LGBT Community worked side-by-side with our union

and women's rights allies to defeat Governor Schwarzenegger's radical agenda. His initiatives would have opened LGBT teachers to discrimination, allowed the governor to cut vital HIV and AIDS programs at his sole discretion, and silenced labor unions that have consistently worked side-by-side with the LGBT community in supporting domestic partnership rights.

The LGBT community is now facing the fight of its life. As many as three initiatives are curretnly gathering signautres that would not only ban marriage but do away with current domestic partner benefits. This would set back 35 years of civil rights advances for LGBT families.

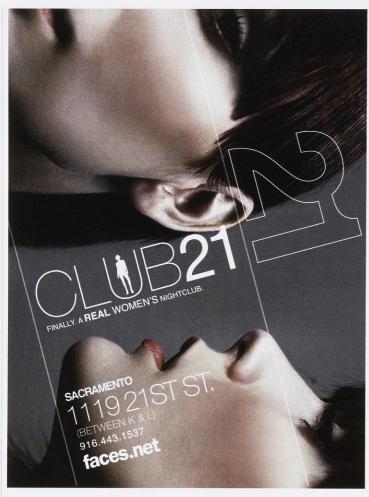
We Hope the Governor has learned his lesson this week. We urge him to separate himself from the extremists in his party. It is time for him to join us in opposing these initiatives that would take away these rights he claims to support."

Dr. Darrick Lawson

President, Stonewall Democrats of Greater Sacramento 916.441-1787 sacstonewall.org

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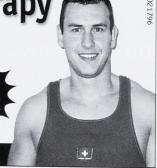
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U.S. DISCRIMINATES

A subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee voted Nov. 9 for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would deny lesbian and gay Americans equal rights under federal law and require states to discriminate against them. The subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights, and Property Rights voted 5 to 4 to pass the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment, which will be considered by the full Judiciary Committee next week.

The proposed amendment would deny equal marriage rights under civil law to same-sex couples and jeopardize the limited legal safeguards for same-sex couples that are now in place in some jurisdictions. It would undermine the states' traditional authority to regulate marriage.

"Today's subcommittee vote shows that some senators will do the bidding of radical right activists on just about anything, including amending the Constitution to treat some Americans as second-class citizens," People For the American Way President Ralph G. Neas said. "It is appalling that this amendment is moving through the Senate."

SURVEY DISCUSSES STATS ON HISPANIC SAME-SEX HOUSEHOLDS

According to a study using United States Census data, Hispanic same-sex couples make-up more than 100,000 households in the U.S. This is a fraction of the 894,000 same-sex couples living together in the country, and directly matches U.S. Census. Fourteen percent of U.S. residents are Hispanic. Research shows that same-sex Hispanic partners are far less likely than their white counterparts to own their own homes and to be U.S.

citizens. This information comes from a study by the National Latino, a Coalition for Justice and the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Nearly half (44-percent) of the Hispanic men and women in same-sex relationships report that they are not U.S. citizens, compared to 5 percent of men and women in white same-sex couples. Attitude against same-sex unions rides high in the Hispanic community, with 64 percent of U.S. born Latinos opposing gay marriage and 77 of foreign born Hispanics declaring same-sex marriage is bad.

Texas TEXAS ANTI-GAY MARRIAGE LAW PASSES

Texas voters approved a state constitutional amendment stating thatmarriage is exclusively between a man and a woman. Some 76 percent of voters supported Proposition 2, making Texas the 19th state in which voters have inserted a marriage definition into their state constitution. Gay marriages were already outlawed in Texas, but the law granted judges discretion to allow civil unions.

The amendment's sponsor, state
Sen. Todd Staples, R-Palestine, said the
measure would close all doors to civil
unions. "The passage of this amendment
reaffirms the will of the mainstream
Texans and protects the sanctity of
marriage from activist judges who might
seek to redefine it," Staples said.

D.C. SLDN SALUTES LGBT VETERANS

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) held a week-long salute to LGBT veterans including an online forum of heterosexual veterans supporting their LGBT colleagues; web profiles of LGBT veterans; a San Francisco event honoring the service of LGBT Americans; and

a Veterans Day rally in Oakland, Calif. According to the Urban Institute, more than 1 million lesbian and gay veterans currently live in the United States. Another 65,000 gays are on active duty and serving in the reserves and national guard.

"America's lesbian and gay veterans have been on the frontlines of every military mobilization and have played an integral role in our national defense since the American Revolution," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of SLDN. Beginning today, straight veterans will write about their experiences serving alongside lesbian and gay troops on the SLDN blog, at sidn.org/blog. The SLDN web site will also feature stories of LGBT veterans from Documenting Courage sldn.org/documentingcourage, a joint project of SLDN, American Veterans for Equal Rights and the Human Rights Campaign. And on Friday, Veterans Day, SLDN will salute the service of LGBT veterans at an event in San Francisco. SLDN will also participate in a Veterans Day rally in Oakland, Calif., at noon on November 11. (Event details are online at www.sldn.org/events.)

Since 1993, more than 10,000 men and women have been fired. According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), nearly 800 of those were specialists with 'mission critical' skills such as linguists, healthcare professionals and combat engineers. The GAO estimates the cost of the military's gay ban to be in excess of \$190 million.

Maine MAINE VOTERS TURN BACK BID TO RESCIND STATE'S GAY-RIGHTS LAW

Voters in Maine rejected an effort to repeal the state's gay-rights law, making Maine the last New England state to legally protect homosexuals from discrimination.

Fifty-seven percent of voters opposed the repeal of the law, which is broadly worded to protect transsexuals and

transvestites as well as gays and lesbians.

The issue, put before voters for the third time since 1998, pitted a coalition of mainstream religious and business groups and politicians, including Governor John Baldacci, against a network of Christian church groups that sees gay rights as an assault on traditional marriage.

The vote was a referendum on the law, enacted earlier this year, to amend the Maine Human Rights Act by making discrimination illegal in employment, housing, credit, public accommodations and education based on sexual orientation.

London, U.K. EPISCOPAL BISHOP CRITICIZES POPE ON GAYS

Recently instated Pope Ratzinger may be the best thing that ever happened to the Episcopal Church as, tired of tightening discrimination, LGBT Catholics are leaving their church for the more accepting Episcopal ministries. However, the first openly gay Episcopal bishop stated he was not telling Catholics to leave the church when he criticized its anti-gay stance during a recent speech.

Brazil TV VIEWERS ANGERED OF EDITED KISS

Lesbians and gays of Brazil have staged a 'mass kiss-in' to protest Brazil's first TV gay kiss being dropped from a popular soap opera. Hundreds of demonstrators gathered outside the Brazilian Congress in criticism of the Globo network's decision to drop the kiss. The heavily hyped embrace was due to be shown in America. One of Brazil's biggest shows, it had already been heavily trailed with many expecting the country to come to a standstill during the kiss. An audience reportedly larger that that of the World Cup final tuned in to the show only to find the kiss was not aired. Globo admitted it had cut scene, calling it

THE Jack Maple TEAM...



LAMBDA LETTERS LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

by Boyce Hinman

CHIEF LOBBYIST LAMBDA LETTERS PROJECT Boyce Hinman may be contacted at LambdaLP@aol.com or (916) 728-1261.

The Lambda Letters Project has just released its legislative score card for the 2005 session of the CA State Legislature. Each year Lambda Letters scores the voting records of state legislators on legislation relating to the four issue areas addressed by the Project. Those areas are: HIV/AIDS, Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) issues, Issues of concern to People of Color and Women's issues.

In some ways there were few surprises. Overall the voting records of the Democrats were much better than those of the Republicans. In the Senate the Republicans received an average score of just 25% while the Democrats' average score was 95%. In the Assembly, the Republicans' overall score was just 22% while the Democrats' overall score was 97%.

Some say the State Assembly tends to be more liberal than

the State Senate. Our data gives a mixed message on that point. The overall average scores of the Assembly and Senate were almost even (67% for the Assembly and 68%) for the Senate. However, only one Senator (Elaine Alquist D-Chula Vista) got a perfect 100% score on all the issue areas addressed by the Lambda Letters Project. Nineteen Assembly Members (all Democrats) got perfect overall scores this year. Clearly there are more strong liberals in the Assembly than the Senate.

As you might expect, HIV/AIDS bills and LGBTI rights bills got the lowest overall scores of the four issue areas addressed by Lambda Letters. In the Senate the average HIV/AIDS score was just 68%. That means Senators voted the right way on these bills just 68% of the time. The Senate average on LGBTI bills was 63%. In the Assembly the overall scores for HIV/AIDS and LGBTI bills were 60% and 64%. Clearly we have a long way to go on these issues.

Women's issue bills got the best overall scores in the legislature. The Senate average on these bills was 74% while in the Assembly it was 76%. These scores are not anything to write home about.

The legislature now has a large contingent of People of Color. It is, therefore, surprising to me that their bills did not do better. In the Senate legislators voted the right way on these bills just 69% of the time. In the Assembly legislators voted the right way an average of only 67% of the time.

In summary, a lot of progress has been made this year and for the past several years, yet our legislators still have not really gotten the message that they MUST support justice and equality for all Californians. I hope you will take the time to join one of the lobbying organizations in our community. Help them make this a better world for us all.

You may see a complete listing of CA state legislators voting scores by visiting the Lambda Letters web page at: www. lambdaletters.org. Then click on Senate Score Card and Assembly Score Card.





The search for Kathy LaMadrid continues a year after her disappearance. Missing from downtown Fort Bragg on Dec. 17, 2004, her former partner Shelli LaMadrid has never given up hope that the mystery of her disappearance will be solved. She has devoted almost every day of the past year of her life toward the search for her missing friend.

"She was very special to me, we stayed very close," says Shelli LaMadrid. "Anyone who has had a special partner in their life, the one that stays part of the family, that's Kathy. She and her family are very important to me, so we'll keep searching for her until we find her."

Shelli has spent most weekends traveling to and from Fort Bragg, the area where Kathy was last seen. Every time there is a hint of new information, or the slightest lead to follow up, Shelli and Reuben LaMadrid, Kathi's brother, have traveled to the redwoods spending their time and energy and endless prayers to find her. "I feel with prayer and perseverance we are going to find her."

After nine months of searching, Shelli and the LaMadrid family are also facing a lack of funds. They have poured their life savings into the search. Now TJ Bruce of The Depot, along with Jeffry Davis, Publisher of MGW, and Michael Johnston of Faces and MGW, will be hosting a Spaghetti dinner and raffle on Sunday Dec. 4, 2004 from 5 – 8pm. Donations of \$5 a plate will be asked with all funds being donated to the search. A candlelight vigil will directly follow the event.

The staff of MGW Newsmagazine ask all of you to do what you can to help in the search for Kathy LaMadrid. Pass on some contact information, send a check or come to the dinner and help bring peace to the LaMadrid family.

DEPOT HOSTS SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER FOR MISSING PERSON



African American Faith-Based World AIDS Day Event Update November 27th @ Center of Praise Ministry (5-70m)

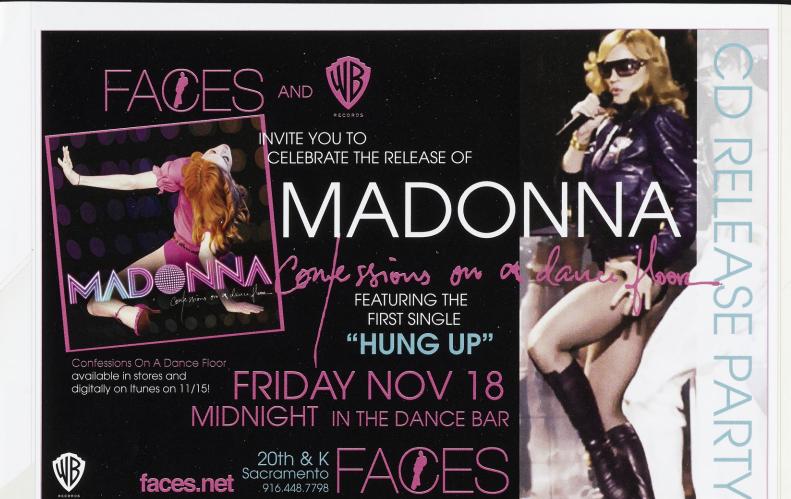
Talking heads: Azizza Davis-Goines and MacArthur Fluornoy Confirmed speakers: Bishop Lovelace, Dr. DeFreitas, Reverend Hollins, Mustard Seed Project Sacramento/Yolo County World AIDS Day December 1st @ West Sacramento City Hall (6-8:30pm)

Talking heads: Alva Kennedy and Michael Lane

Confirmed speakers: Cristina Mendonsa from News 10 (emcee), Yvonne Faciane - HIV/HCV infected, now a Trainer for the UCSF AIDS Health Project. Mustard Seed Youth -- Performing a skit about knowing your HIV status, (targets faith communities). Kim Kamau -- started an HIV agency in his hometown of Kenya, works in HIV in the US. Irene Ross -- singer from HIV support group. UCD Gospel Choir (will perform 2 songs for vigil, one traditional and one contemporary).

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by Stefan Gruenwedel

Film noir has achieved such stylized status these seen-it-all days that it's hard to play it straight. That's probably why one Hollywood writer decided to spice up the genre by throwing in some gay spice.

Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang is Shane Black's attempt to resurrect the success he had with his script for Lethal Weapon back in 1987. His strong suit is teaming two very different people, sometimes in comedic fashion, amid an undercurrent of violence. Unfortunately that suit is a bit threadbare this time.

The film is at its strongest in the beginning. Harry (Robert Downey Jr.) is a petty crook from New York who unexpectedly stumbles upon a casting session for a detective movie—and acts so realistically that he gets flown to Hollywood for a screen test. There he's teamed up with a tough-talking detective named Perry (Val Kilmer) to research his role.

Before long, of course, they become involved in a real-life murder case that could cost them their lives. Perry would rather conduct his own investigation but Harry manages to hang around just enough to interfere.

To complicate matters, Perry is gay ("Gay Perry," get it?) and Harry is inept. It's gay dick meets fake dick.

The movie's inspiration is the pulp detective novels of dime-store lore. Mirroring those formulaic paperbacks, Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang features a



MICHELLE MONAGHAN TAKES A BREAK IN IN KISS KISS, BANG BANG

sardonic voiceover and plenty of amusing, self-aware moments that should make any movie fan slow down on the popcorn to take it all in.

If only things could continue this playful way. Instead, the entire middle part is a mess, and a bore. Not only is there a lot to keep straight (assuming it actually all makes sense when scrutinized in the light of day) but, worse, the characters find themselves in increasingly unbelievable situations. This simply makes the movie more and more mundane. Soon car chases and squealing tires make the film resemble a bad cop drama on TV. They're

so out of place, you'll laugh, you'll groan.

Too bad. Kilmer is a good mixture of camp and jock. Downey Jr. is his usual hapless, slightly neurotic self. Michelle Monaghan, as the aspiring actress named Harmony who shares a past with Harry, lends her character some dimensionality.

The plot eventually succumbs to the same level of seriousness as its pulp fiction predecessors—the kind that were thrown in the trash.

Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang opened in area theaters November 11 Info: www.kisskiss-bangbang.com.

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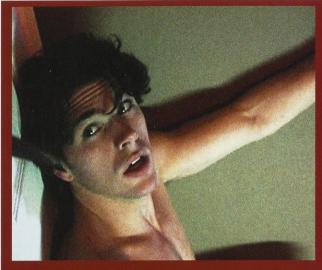
Sacramento Opera Silver Anniversary Season continues with Die Fledermaus opening November 18 at community center theater

Johann Strauss, Jr.'s Die Fledermaus (The Bat), a wonderfully entertaining comedy of deceit and disguise, is the second show in the Sacramento Opera Company's Silver Anniversary Season. It will be performed November 18, 20, and 22 at Sacramento's Community Center Theater with music by the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by the opera's Artistic Director, Timm Rolek. Strauss' 1874 operetta made its debut with the Sacramento Opera in 1985 and was last staged by the company in 1995.

Overflowing with the infectious melodies of the Vienna Waltz King, Die Fledermaus offers a lively mix of characters and events: a practical joke, a wife, an amorous tenor, an ambitious maid, one ambiguous Russian prince, a mysterious "Hungarian countess" and a drunken jailer.

Add to the mix a few innovations by Artistic Director Rolek. He plans to augment the second act ballroom scene into a variety show to celebrate the company's 25th Anniversary and has imported nationally known political satirist Will Durst from San Francisco to make a special guest appearance in the cameo role of Frosch. Durst, who claims to be the nation's "ultimate equal opportunity offender," has been hailed as "a modern day Will Rogers" by the Los Angeles Times while the San Francisco Chronicle calls him "heir apparent to Mort Sahl and Dick Gregory." The opera will be sung in English with projected English titles. For more information, visit www.sacopera.org or call 916/737-1000.

2005-2006 Silver Anniversary Season Die Fledermaus: November 18,20 and 22, 2005 Turandot: February 24,26 and 28, 2006.



HALLOWQUEEN

by Stefan Gruenwedel

As if the real world didn't direct enough violence against queers, now there's a horror film that plays on the rational, deep-seated fears they feel every day.

Hellbent sets the oft-imitated and parodied "slasher" genre smackdab in the middle of the bacchanalia that is the Halloween carnival in West Hollywood. The result is ultimately disappointing but not without enough suspense to keep you anxiously squirming in your seat.

Eddie (Dylan Fergus) and his roommates set off for a night of treats and tricks, despite knowing that two gay guys just like them were beheaded earlier that morning in a wooded park nearby.

The foursome venture out anyway, followed closely by the costumed, muscular maniac who swings a very sharp sickle for no discernable reason. Slowly but surely they learn what it really means to give head.

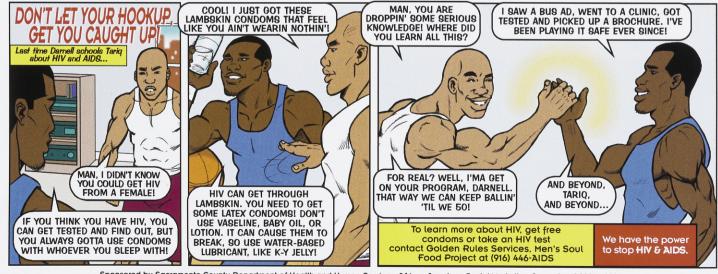
If there's any lesson in all of this, it's to stay away from the strong silent type who wields a weaponized appendage.

Hellbent puts its sound effects (loud thud, squishy sound, metallic "zing") to good use. The vibrant color palate of green, red, and blue looks great. Queer punk bands round out the score. Kudos for trying.

The guys are cute and the acting is not too shabby but the situations they find themselves in are just as contrived as any you've seen before. Too bad the filmmakers didn't try harder to expand the slasher art form after all the work they put into it

Hellbent opened November 4 at the Crest Theatre.

Info: www.hellbent-movie.com.



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by Katrina Torres

The very idea of a Texas Roadhouse evokes pleasant thoughts of huge slabs of beef, belly laughs and big, frosty mugs of ice-cold beer.

While I don't usually hold high expectations for chain restaurants, the Texas Roadhouse has won numerous awards for their "slow-cooked fall-off-the-bone" ribs and their Homemade Texas Red Chili, and was voted the #1 Steakhouse by one wellrespected publication. Since I was in the mood for a big, juicy

steak, I thought I'd give Elk Grove's new Texas Roadhouse a try, to see if they would live up to their reputation.

The crowd ranged from boisterous and happy barstool-warmers to laughing families with young children and grannies in tow. The seating was mostly padded booths, and the atmosphere about as "Texas roadhouse" as you can get. The walls were covered with country memorabilia, neon beer signs and

posters of Willie Nelson. He tours the Texas Roadhouse chain for special appearances, selling his Tsunami Relief Album, and encouraging people to contribute to the survivors of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Although the place was pretty much packed to the gills, we were lucky to get seats at the bar, and made a note to use the "call ahead seating" next time. The bar service was a little slow and after waiting about 5 minutes to be noticed, Michelle, an exuberant woman with an entertaining sense of propriety, took it upon herself to throw peanuts at all three of the bartenders until she caught someone's attention by landing a peanut in the drink they were mixing. We tried a Long Island iced tea and a signature margarita, and found them both very tasty, although the Long Island was a bit on the limp side. We munched from

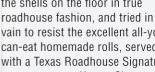
the buckets of peanuts, throwing the shells on the floor in true roadhouse fashion, and tried in vain to resist the excellent all-youcan-eat homemade rolls, served with a Texas Roadhouse Signature

Honey-Cinnamon Butter. Staying away from the appetizers wasn't easy, especially when they had names like Chicken Critters and Rattlesnake

bites.

Although the menu offered a variety of tempting entrees, with chicken, ribs, seafood and pasta choices as well as Texas-sized steaks, it wasn't hard to decide what we wanted: meat, and lots of it. We'd passed right by the display case of plump, generously sized hand-cut steaks on the way in, and I could swear I heard that big fat one up in the corner whispering my name. Michelle ordered the half slab of pork ribs, which was indeed "fall-offthe-bone" as promised, and very flavorful, with a tangy signature sauce that could make you forget you were eating in front of other people. I had the 12 oz. New York Strip, with a choice of two side dishes. The side salads were very fresh, crisp and colorful and not so large as to fill us up, with good salad dressings on both.

We both chose the mashed potatoes and country gravy which were chunky and luscious, with little pieces of potato skin mixed in. The made-from-scratch country gravy that smothered them was downright decadent, and later we both admitted to having fought a painful urge to lick the plate clean. My steak was cooked by someone who had the rare skill of knowing how to cook a seared-rare steak. It was tender and juicy, and beat the pants off of that "other" roadhouse just down the freeway. The horseradish I ordered on the side was the real stuff, and definitely not that sissy cream variety that no true Texan would be caught dead eating.





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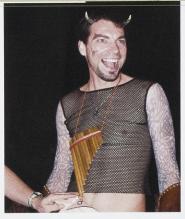
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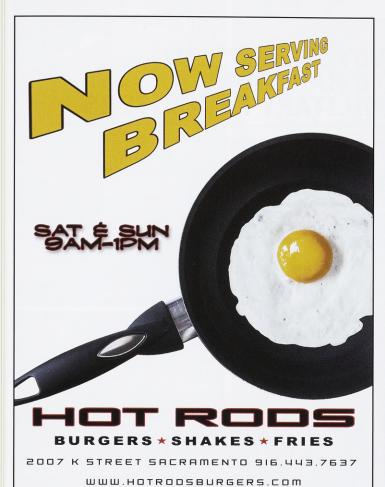


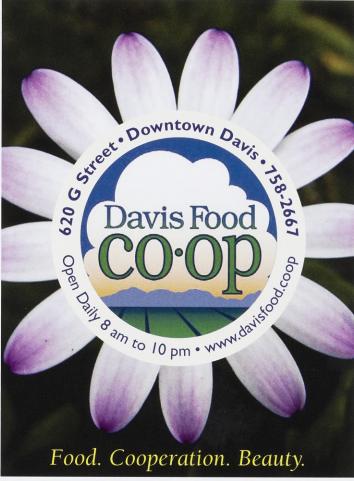


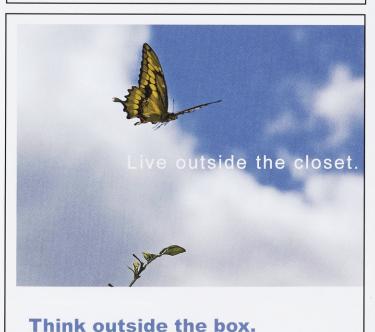






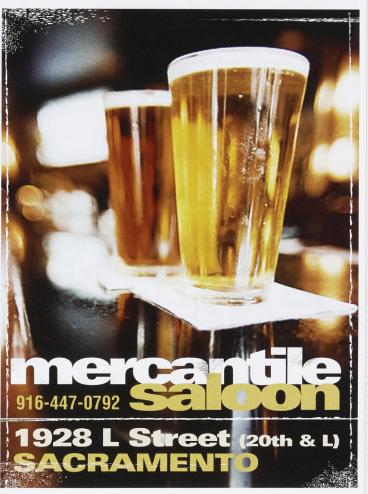






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AUTHORITIES ASK FOR HELP IN DEATH

San Francisco police began asking the local GLBT community to help in their quest to determine how a gay artist was fatally injured in early November. Barry Nielsen, 48, died after he was removed from life support devices just four days after he was found unconscious with a mysterious head injury. Nielsen was found in front of a building where he had been attending an "open studios" art event at a friend's gallery, according to friend David Perry, who heads a local public relations firm.

Nielsen was found on the street with a broken neck, spinal injuries and cuts on his head. Investigators said injuries were not consistent with a fall and that they suspect foul play. However a San Francisco Police spokesman said officers have not confirmed that a crime occurred until the medical examiner has determined the manner of Nielsen's death.

Investigators have set up an anonymous tip line 415-558-5411 and asked the LGBT community to call with any information.

SF AIDS PROJECT FINDS DECLINE IN METH USE

San Francisco's gay community is experiencing a drop in crystal methamphetamine use, according to research conducted by the non-profit STOP AIDS Project and analyzed by the city's Department of Public Health. The Stop Aids Project conducted over 4,000 surveys of gay and bisexual men which lead to the belief that there has been a 40 percent drop in meth usage within that time period.

In late 2003, 18 percent of gay and bisexual men in San Francisco reported they had used crystal meth in the last six months. In the first half of 2005, 10 percent had reported using crystal meth.

The Department of Public Health's AIDS office indicated that, because the sample group is hard to identify, the data might be biased, but agreed with the results. Still, the STOP AIDS Project's findings have been taken with a grain of salt by some.

VOTERS SAY 'NO' TO HANDGUNS & MILITARY RECRUITERS

In this month's special election, San Francisco voters approved two controversial ballot measures. The first to ban handguns in San Francisco, the second to urge public campuses to decline access to military recruiters.

With 100 percent of San Francisco precincts reporting the day after elections, 58 percent backed the proposed gun ban known as Measure H. the Measure prohibits the manufacture and sale of all firearms and ammunition within the city, and makes it illegal for residents to keep handguns at their home or business.

Washington and Chicago are the only other U.S. Cities to have adopted similar initiatives. Law enforcement, security guards and others who require weapons for work will be exempt from the measure, however current handgun owners will have to relinquish their weapons by April 2006.

A coalition led by the National Rifle Association plans to use the court system to challenge the initiative.

MEN'S CHORUS OFF-SEASON UNDERWAY

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus' 28th season concert series is underway and includes many of favorite events along with some new and exciting ones as well. The new event this year was the SFGMC showcase, Cowboys, Boas and Bears, Oh My!, featuring the ensembles, The Lollipop Guild and Vocal Minority. The event was a sold out smash. The chorus will be joined by Stockholms Gaykör (Stockholm's Gay Choir) for a Spring concert and the special event will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 1981 National Tour and the 10th anniversary of NakedMan. Upcoming events: 16th Annual Home for the Holidays!, Thursday, December 15, 2005, 7 PM, A Castro Tradition for 16 Years! Saturday, December 24, 2005, 5, 7, & 9 PM With the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco at 9 PM, Castro Theatre Cabaret: Where the Boys Are. With Special Guest: Sharon McNight, Get up close and personal with the men of SFGMC, Saturday, February 4, 2006, 8 PM, Sunday, February 5, 2006, 1 & 7 PM, ODC Theater.











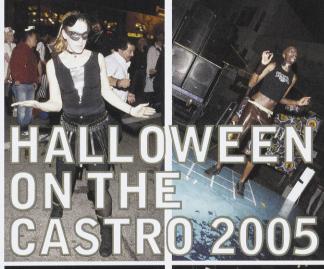
























Baroque operas face several hurdles for modern audiences

They are long (four to five hours is not uncommon) and follow a formula of limited variety with a repetitive sequence of arias and recitative, no ensembles or choruses. The arias themselves fit the rigid "da capo" convention of three contrasting parts (slow-fast-slow or the reverse). Four hours of this can prove trying, even to dedicated opera lovers. Furthermore, most of the leading male roles were written for castrati, a voice type that is now extinct. Mezzo sopranos such as Marilyn Horne used to sing these roles, but today countertenors usually do them.

Another hurdle is the often-convoluted plots involving enchantresses and magic islands. To help modern audiences accept such works, directors often set them in contemporary times. This can lead to brilliant results, such as SFO's "Alcina" three years ago, with the action moved from Alcina's enchanted island to the country mansion of a once-wealthy family now on the skids. Handel's *Rodelinda*, less in need of such treatment thanks to its plausible plot, went from seventh century Milan to a large city during the Mussolini era. Lombard royalty became gangsters, and the dark underside of a modern metropolis replaced royal opulence.

In the opera, Bertarido, the king of Lombardy, is believed dead. His rival Grimoaldo has usurped his throne and now wants his wife Rodelinda. Engaged to Bertarido's sister Eduige, he tries to push her off onto his ambitious henchman Garibaldo who sees the marriage as a path to the throne. Of course Bertarido

is in fact alive and ultimately returns. In the most famous aria of the opera, "Vivi tiranno," he reveals to Grimoaldo that he has saved his life by killing Garibaldo. Since Handel's audiences expected a happy ending, the overcome Grimoaldo gives up the throne and returns to Eduige as Bertarido and Rodelinda are reunited. The score is one of Handel's finest, replete with beautiful and intricate arias and even a duet and closing ensemble.

Director **David Alden** could not let a moment pass without some frantic motion by the singers, even during their arias. At one point, Eduige had to erotically straddle the thighs of the reclining Garibaldo, all the while singing a taxing aria! Instead of concentrating on her fine performance of the music, we were left to wonder whether she would lose her balance or her place in the score. (She did neither.) His totally inappropriate slapstick "humor" did violence to the tone of opera. For instance, after being accidentally stabbed by the hero, the devoted Unulfo ran smack into a stone wall, eliciting giggles in the audience. This is one of Handel's darkest operas, peopled by complex duplicitous characters, not a Jerry Lewis farce. Such excesses diminished the opera.

San Francisco Opera's
"Rodelinda"
by Wayne R. Anderson

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Bay Area composer John Adams likes to write operas on large contemporary themes.

"Nixon in China" dealt with Nixon's visit to Mao which helped thaw our relations with China, and "The Death of Klinghoffer" looked at Palestinian terrorism. So when SFO director Pamela Rosenberg suggested an American Faust, it seemed a natural for him. The opera that emerged, "Dr. Atomic," looks at the birth of the nuclear age during the summer of 1945 The central character is physicist J. Robert Openheimer, head of the Manhattan Project. We also see scientists working on the project, such as Edward Teller (who later helped destroy Openheimer, and incidentally was the inspiration for Dr. Strangelove) and Edward R. Wilson (deeply concerned about the moral implications of the awesome weapon and later the founder of Fermilab). Other major roles include General Leslie Groves. military commander of the project, Openheimer's alcoholic wife Kitty, who is used as a prophetic humane voice, and the Openheimers' Tewa Indian maid Pasqualita (largely a made-up character) who provides some spiritual dimension.

The libretto was assembled by Peter Sellers from fragments of various documents and poems. Openheimer was an enormously cultured man of wideranging interests, who was avidly fond of poetry and read the Hindu "Bhagavad Gita" in Sanskrit. Selections from Baudelaire, John Donne, and the Gita are used for important portions of the text. The most moving piece in the opera, Openheimer's aria "Batter my heart, three person'd God," is set to a Donne sonnet.

The opera opens with a crescendo of noise, a mixture of technological devices and human cries, ending with fragments of a Jo Stafford song. Then the music begins with a physics lesson as the chorus intones the laws of the conservation of mass and the conservation of energy (which incidentally are incorrect since Einstein showed that matter and energy can be transformed into each other). We see the scientists attempting to solve the technological problems of igniting the fission bomb. Openheimer emerges as a technocrat little troubled by the moral implications of the horrific weapon they are creating. He discourages Wilson from holding a meeting to explore those implications, suggesting that it could get

him into trouble, but a later scene reveals a more tender side as he comforts Kittv.

The second act has drawn criticism since little happens except waiting. Inner concerns are revealed as the time drags on. Opera is best when illuminating the psychology of its characters, not when giving fast action. After all, since that first bomb, hasn't the whole world been engaged in a great waiting game to see if these weapons will again be unleashed?

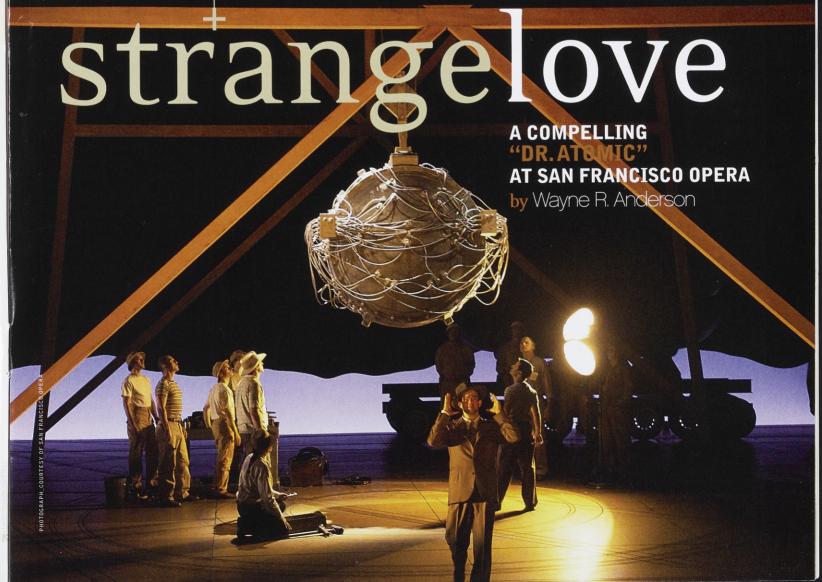
Musically the work contains much to admire, especially in the orchestra. Adams has moved far beyond the repetitive constraints of minimalism. His score is rich in atmospheric tone painting, and some of the vocal writing is very effective, including the John Donne aria mentioned above, a poetic duet between Kitty and Openheimer, and the mystical music of Pasqualita. Act one contains far too much recitative and too little singing, but the second act is more lyrical, yet many people feel that it drags.

At the end, this opera certainly leaves the audience moved. One must ask if we are moved by the titanic events themselves or by the composer's portrayal of those events. My impression is that it is really the events, not the music that moves us. Time will tell whether this work can reward repeated

visits and if it is musically viable.

The casting was first-rate. Gerald Finley's rich baritone gave weight to Openheimer's lines, Thomas Glenn's light tenor was well suited to the idealistic young Wilson, and Richard Paul Fink's strong bass captured Edward Teller's forcefulness. Eric Owens was a fine Gen. Groves, as were Kristine Jepson (Kitty) and Beth Clayton (Pasqualita). Donald Runnicles' conducting was a real strength. The simple sets, consisting mostly of large metal tubes and scaffolds, suggested the austerity of life on this project, while the bomb itself was ever-present. The New Mexico mountains provided a stark backdrop.

The ending, as the bomb ignites with a great silent glow and the performers look the audience in the face, is especially disturbing since we have in no sense learned our lesson. We stepped out of the opera house into a world containing some thousand nuclear weapons, each a thousand times more powerful than those used on Japan. Some are perilously close to the hands of terrorists. And we now have an administration in Washington bent on adding a new arsenal of low-yield nuclear weapons, intended not for deterrence but for actual use on the battlefield. The nuclear madness has only grown!





At first glance,

Dante's Cove might seem like just another attempt at a gay-themed nighttime soap. With publicity that focuses on hot young men casting intense looks as they pose on breezy beach scenes, one might never guess that, as in the town of Dante's Cove, there is more than meets the eye to this newest gay drama.

Here TV's new series *Dante's Cove*, directed by Sam Irvin follows the lives of a group of twentysomethings living in an apartment complex on the beach and boasts a cast of eclectic characters including beach bums, surfers, and college students. While

years later his rescuer is Kevin played by **Gregory Michael**. Kevin has come to live with his boyfriend Toby, who has offered him sanctuary from his abusive stepfather.

Dante's Cove is home to a number of supporting characters including the cool lesbian Goth character Van (Nadine Heiman) who paints images of the hotel's dark past, party girl Amber (Zara Taylor) who is the nay-sayer of the bunch, Adam (Stephen Amell) who claims to be straight, but is jealous over his best friend Toby's relationship with Kevin, and adorable slacker Cory (Josh Berresford) who goes from uberslut to zombie as he falls victim to the dark forces of Ambrosius.

eckings_{in}

the characters are a mix of all sexualities, the primary characters are gay and lesbian. As if dealing with the daily rigors of life in your 20s wasn't enough, the residents of Hotel Dante find themselves facing supernatural beings battling to settle old scores and not worrying about who gets hurt in the process.

The story opens on the character of Grace played by **Tracy Scoggins** (*Dynasty*, *Babylon 5*) catching her fiancé Ambrosius played by **William Gregory Lee** (*Xena*, *Dark Angel*) bent over the couch in a compromising position with the butler. With a flash of her eyes the butler crumples in a pile on the floor as heat waves rise from his convulsing body. Devastated over his betrayal, Grace breaks the engagement by shackling Ambrosius in the basement, and cursing him with eternal life as an old man. His only hope for freedom is that of a kiss from an attractive young man. Two hundred

While the supporting roles at times are more fun to watch than the leads, it is the leading actors who put not only their character's lives on the line, but their own bodies, as Dante's Cove weaves a large amount of erotic sex into its storylines. Dante's Cove continues in the vein of shows like Queer As Folk and The L Word, balancing gratuitous nudity and stimulating sexual situations with a well-rounded story. The abundance of sexual activity, mostly male on male, but also lesbian and hetero action as well is beautifully filmed, but at times distracts from an entertaining storyline.

Dante's Cove may not be the stuff Emmy's are made off, but it is good gay TV through and through. Fun characters, campy dialogue, hot men and women and cliffhangers that keep you on the edge of your futon. Who could ask for more? Dante's Cove is a slam-dunk for Here! TV.



William Gregory Lee

Born in 1973 Lee broke into show business when he received a role in "Wind on Water," an NBC show about Hawaiian ranchers. He portrayed Bo Derek's son who participated in extreme sports to earn extra money for his widowed mother. Only two episodes were ever aired. He continued his career with a popular recurring role on "Xena" and the infamous Zack on "Dark Angel." Lee spends much of his spare time in the gym keeping in shape. Lee's girlfriend of four years has been a friend since their first grade days.



Charlie David

Davis has been a host for E! Television and Life Network. He has been the subject of a documentary on the Learning Channel and has appeared as musical guest on VH1, BBC, and dozens of radio shows. Formerly in a rock band David opened for Destiny's Child, Pink, Snoop Dogg, Rick Springfield and Black Eyed Peas. David is now focused on film and TV on Showtime's Reefer Madness, Movie Central's Terminal City, and Dante's Cove. He is 23 years old.



Tracy Scoggins

Scoggins started in the entertainment industry as a model before making her debut in Twirl with Heather Locklear and soon after she was cast in her first series, The Renegades, opposite Patrick Swayze. Since then she has been a popular television actress starring as Charlton Heston's daughter, Monica Colby, in the popular series The Colbys and Dynasty, Catherine "Cat" Grant on ABC's Lois and Clark, Amanda Carpenter on Lonesome Dove: The Outlaw Years and Captain Elizabeth Lochley, on Babylon 5.





mama's GIRL

ALEKSA MANILA

"I'd rather get high on heels!"

Age: "A lady never ages..."
Sign: GEMINI
Hair: BROWN, BLONDE
(Depends on my mood...)
Eyes: HAZEL (Most times...)
Height: 5'8"
Weight: I prefer "Petite
Large"
Length of time you have
lived in Seattle: A long,

FAVORTTES

sweet 10 years!

Bar: "Anywhere that makes an 'Aleksa Manila'" Music: PINK MARTINI Restaurant: GENEVA Things: SHOES! SHOES! SHOES! Did I mention shoes? Indulgence: Dilletante's
Mango Cheesecake
Celebs to hang out with:
"Thomas Lauderdale- Pink
Martini & Arnaldo!
Drag Chanteuse"
Thing About Seattle: The
Space Needle! It's just so
enormous! Historical, too!
Seriously, the places &
faces... EVERYTHING!

Greatest Fear: "To die without saying, 'Thank you and I love you."

Greatest Challenge facing gay people today: Ignorance & pride at all levels and forms

Beauty Tips: "Be yourself: start from within and your natural beauty will illuminate!"



PHOTOS BY JEFFRY DAVIS & MICHAEL JOHNSTON Photo & Makeup by: Racquel Lacson

It's been months since the SEATTLE PRIDE COMMITTEE (SPC) ANNOUNCED THEIR PLANS TO MOVE GAY PRIDE DOWNTOWN, BUT CHARLETTE LEFEVRE WON'T GIVE UP HOPE THAT THEY WILL BE STOPPED: "THEY ARE STEALING PRIDE FROM BROADWAY, AND IF NOBODY STEPS UP TO DO ANYTHING, IT WILL BE LOST FOREVER."

Her words come on the heels of the final vote from SPC on Nov. 22, which will determine whether or not the parade will move.

LeFevre seems to match a resounding public sentiment. When the decision to move was announced before this year's Pride, it was met with immense opposition from Capitol Hill businesses and the larger Seattle LGBT community. Carl Madieros, owner of Broadway's Panache, lead the opposition by collecting over 8,000 signatures of protest that he presented the committee at a heavily attended board meeting last July.

Still, his efforts made little difference, a cool rebuttal from SPC that Lefevre won't soon forget. "In a setting like that, you have to strive for transparency; when you get over a 100 people at a meeting, you have to listen," LeFevre continues, "I see this level of arrogance, like they can do no wrong."

The long and very public struggle with SPC has tired Madieros from the issue and LeFevre, Director of the Museum of the Mysteries on Broadway, has appeared to have taken the reigns from him. Yet, their supposed arrogance has little to do with LeFevre's real concern. She asserts that there are serious conflicts of interest surrounding the membership of the all-volunteer committee.



In a complaint filed to the Washington State Attorney General on July 31 of this year, LeFevre claimed that the committee had failed to forward her financial statements after repeated requests, and that the committee also misappropriated nonprofit public donations for their own personal businesses. "I just wanted to know where my money was going, and they couldn't tell me," says LeFevre. She believes that then board member Marcus Purnell, publisher of the gay-oriented Magazine 99, had awarded himself advertising status as the "Official 2005 Pride Guide" through his publication and therefore had generated revenue from the

Purnell has since resigned from his board position stating that he wanted to focus solely on Magazine 99, which will again be the "Official Pride Guide" for next year's event. LeFevre also named current board member, Marketing Director Dale Kershner in her complaint because he was apparently listed on the magazine's website as a sales director. Kershner is not currently listed by Magazine 99 as having any relationship to the publication.

LeFevre, who says that she volunteered to be a SPC board member to no response, clearly wants the parade to stay on Broadway. "They want a more controlled arena and they're using stall tactics to get their way, but the Seattle Center is not a community," she quips.

While her opinion may be

mirrored by many in the Seattle-area LGBT communities, there are many issues that further complicate the situation. Over 150,000 attended this year's march, more than a 30,000 increase from 2004, and some kind of resolution is both needed and inevitable.

The opening of the new Cal
Anderson Park between Broadway and
10th may provide a distraction from
the parade, but the Capitol Hill area
would still need other alternatives to
sustain another increase in bodies.
While LeFevre and others who back
her position criticize SPC's attempt to
move the March downtown, the lack
of ideas surrounding how to manage
next year's march if it were to be
on Broadway has become blatantly
apparent.

SPC Responds

SPC Marketing director Dale Kershner is quick to brush aside the accusations from LeFevre, "It's a free country and anybody can say whatever they want. It's my feeling that people should be more careful about lending unfounded, unresearched, un-based allegations," says Kershner. He also asserts that SPC did not respond to her inquiries because they didn't have to: "Until a week ago, we weren't a filed 501c3, so all of the sudden as soon as that filing takes place there are different rules and restrictions that we have to operate under, before that, we don't," he says. SPC has not yet received

501c3 status, which would make their volunteer-based committee a federally recognized non-profit organization.

Kershner also flatly denied that there has ever been any misappropriation of funds, "No misappropriation has taken place. No money has flowed from Pride to me in any way."

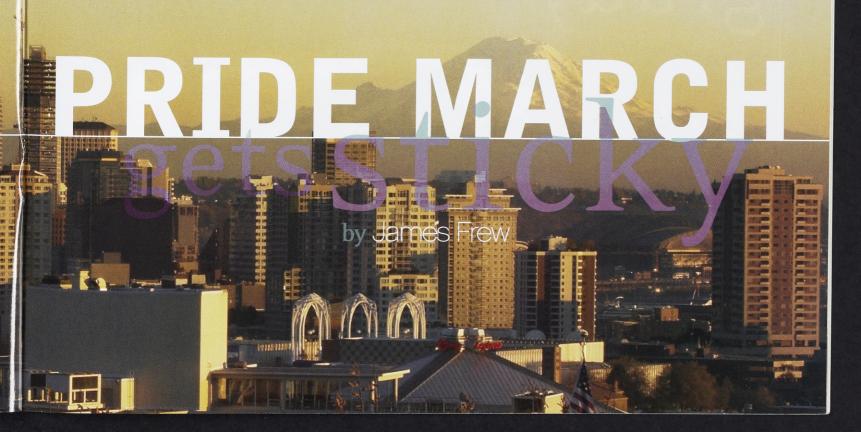
Kershner thinks that the negative reaction to the move has detracted from the actual realities at hand. He believes that the parade should match the strides that the LGBT community has made over the last couple of years, "The concept of Gay Pride isn't sufficient anymore, and that's part of the reason we should look at it as a Seattle thing and not just a Capitol Hill thing." He contends that the Seattle Center would make the march easier to market, not to mention that past couple of events offered a serious lack of parking, as well as being confounded by the ten foot height limit that the city has imposed due to the electric wires used by buses, creating a smaller area for floats to operate.

Yet the most controversial motive for moving has emerged through the idea of charging for appearances from gay-friendly entertainers. While the idea of contracting comedian Janeane Garofalo has been rumored for months, Kershner alluded to the fact that SPC was attempting to get more high profile performers such as Bette Midler, Ellen DeGeneres, Margaret Cho, Tegan & Sara and Evanescence. If any of those performers were to be

contracted, it would be easy to charge for their performances at the Seattle Center, a fact that angers many, including LeFevre.

Still, next year's event appears to be on the rocks, and Kershner readily admits that SPC is having trouble organizing the event on their own, "Frankly, we're in the hole." His thoughts are mirrored by others at SPC. In the online yahoo group site titled "boycottspc" which was started by LeFevre, SPC Secretary Eric Albert-Gauthier implored those who wish to make a difference to come to an SPC meeting or contact them to make their voices heard: "...if the community is so damn concerned about Seattle Pride, lets see you all get involved... show up to a meeting, volunteer your skills to make pride better. WAKE UP SFATTI FIII"

While SPC promised MGW Magazine that their financial information would be available around the same time this article is published, the final decision of whether or not the parade will be moved will be voted in on Nov. 22 by SPC and two newly elected board members who have not yet been identified at this time, according to Kershner. Those who wish to voice their insight can reach SPC at info@seattlepride.org, or attend the open community meeting on Sunday Nov. 20 at the Lifelong Aids Alliance conference room at 100 E. Seneca St. in Seattle.



THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING AND IN SEATTLE THAT MEANS A NEW DINA MARTINA HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR IS AFOOT. THE LOVABLE CHARACTER FROM LAS VEGAS IS SURE TO SING EVERYONE'S HOLIDAY FAVORITES AND TALK ABOUT HER LIFE WITH DAUGHTER PHOEBE (PRONOUNCED FO-EBE) BECAUSE SHE KNOWS EVERYONE CARES AND DINA ALWAYS AIMS TO PLEASE.

DIVA MARTINA PROFILE

by Kimburly Ervin

So, every holiday season she presents her doting fans with gifts of Cheeto-flavored lip balm, hair from her drain and personal collectibles from the Martina household. They must be worth something if it is from Dina, right? Obviously, sweet Dina has not been let in on the joke.

A Dina show is an experience that cannot be explained—not even by her creator, actor/writer/director/performer-extraordinaire Grady West.

"People want to know what it is and just saying 'you have to see it to believe it' which is what a lot of people say—that doesn't really sell a whole lot of tickets," jokes West. "It is of course a drag show because I'm a guy doing a woman character, but its not traditional drag. The thing is people get the wrong idea when you say it's a drag show. It's not a glamorous show. What I do is much more in line with Milton Berle doing drag."

Dina was created when West was asked by friend Steve Wells to contribute a character for his cabaret Pearls Before Swine in 1989. Featuring a coterie of characters, the cabaret forced the audience to watch the show through peepholes, turning them into voyeurs. Dina became an instant favorite with her Vegas-style lounge act of off-key

singing and absurd fashions.

But West only did the cabaret as a way to have fun and help out a friend. The run was meant to last a few weeks, but was extended and Dina began to get asked to perform with other shows that eventually lead to her own solo performances.

"I would just get so nervous and really freaked out that afterwards I would just go home and throw everything away," explains West. "So for the first three or four times I did Dina, I would go out and get cheap Halloween wigs, Morticia Adams type wigs, bad polyester dresses come home throw them out and say 'Ah, I'm never going to do that again.' Then I just got to the point, probably two years after starting, when I became OK with performing as Dina."

For the past year, West has been working full-time taking Dina around the country. He recently returned from his first summer performing in Provincetown, MA, a difficult decision that had him barking on the streets to get people to his show.

"There was one night where there were only two people in my audience. I did the show and they were actually so wonderful. They laughed and loved it. They thanked me profusely for doing the show for just them," West remembers.

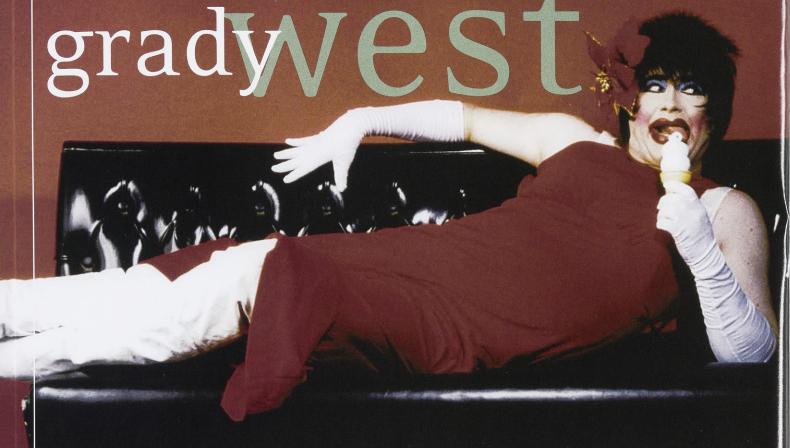
"They said they had the worst week. The husband's mother's died. Their house was broken into. Then they got into a car wreck, just all these things. And they kept saying, 'you have made us so happy; you have no idea.' That was the best thing."

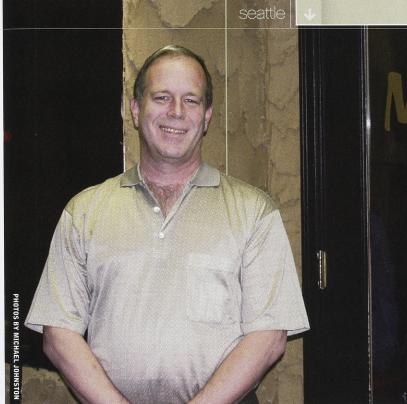
West also had the chance to perform at this year's Wigstock in New York and left the crowd buzzing. Filmmaker and friend John Waters even called him to let him know people were calling to tell him about this drag queen who stole the show—Dina Martina.

For now, West is concentrating on writing the upcoming Christmas show that starts the day after Thanksgiving at Re-Bar. He has shows lined up throughout the year that will have him bouncing all over the country, including two stops in New York and a second summer in P-town.

But luckily for Seattleites, his successes on the east coast aren't tempting him to him to leave.

"I was born and raised in Seattle and although I love New York, I've had some really great trips there, I realize living there wouldn't be the same," says West. "I enjoy it here and I've got great friends. I'm really happy where I'm at."







the mediterranean emerald city

MARTIN'S OFF MADISON by Michael T. Johnston

Martin Palmer exudes "laid back". A farmer, a remodeling specialist, a steamship agent ("like a waiter for ships," he quips),

Palmer has worked in a variety of fields, all of them ultimately about quality customer service, making his latest venture the perfect fit. At 47, Palmer embarks on his latest effort, the Mediterranean-styled Martin's off Madison at 1413 14th Avenue in the space formerly occupied by the Full Circle Bar and Grille.

Light and airy, the work-in-progress that is Martin's Off Madison offers a more open feeling than its predecessors. "I was the manager of the Sea Wolf from 2001-2002. I know and love the clientele we had. Our goal is to keep the place inviting for them while creating a more upscale environment."

Featuring a nightly piano bar,

contemporary décor and full-service bar (which presently doubles as the smoking section until the new law takes effect), the transformation from the past is rather dramatic. This does not equate, however to the staff. "Most of the Full Circle staff has stayed with us. Nick (Tia), Douggie, Leon, Kirk, George...they are all still here," Palmer notes.

As for the clientele, he admits that some have moved on but most have stayed, "Many expected the worst, but most have embraced this change. I get comments all the time about how it's finally time someone did this on the hill."

Martin's business partner and chef is cousin Eric Martin, 35, a man with an extensive background in culinary arts. Eric Martin worked for a variety of upscale restaurants, including Asagio, Prego and the Fish Café. Featuring Northwest cuisine with a Mediterranean flair, the menu also includes many contemporary American favorites such as steaks, chops, chicken and seafood. Fresh daily soups and pasta specials round out

the fare. A recent addition, Martin's wine program now features a taste of the grape by the bottle or glass.

The varied menu includes a healthy sampling of appetizers and salads, lunch and dinner items as well as a strong weekend brunch selection. Lunch includes basic American fare, with a variety of sandwiches, Halibut and chips, Chef's and Caesar salads and burgers. Sunday brunch includes basic fare such as steak and eggs, French toast, pancakes, omelettes and biscuits and gravy. Signature dishes include the Halibut with Chorizo and Clams in a spicy red sauce. Porterhouse pork chops in a Marsala and mushroom sauce, baked lasagna with spicy Italian sausage in a tomato-basil base, and Black Tiger prawns wrapped in Prosciutto with a lemon-butter kalamata pesto. Save room for dessert...among a variety of seasonal choices, the standout tart is (as one customer put it so vividly) "simply hateful".

Marin's life partner Joseph Rojo, 44 and Larry Pearson take turns at the Piano, entertaining the masses with both classical and contemporary favorites—including some original music. "We are looking for entertainers, singers, performers to further develop the program," Palmer notes. "I have always wanted a piano bar. This is the fulfillment of a longtime dream." Performing weekends 7-10pm, the baby grand definitely attracts aficionados of all ages. "I love the mixed clientele. Young, old, male, female, gay, straight and in between, everyone is welcome. We are now seeing more young people in their 20s and 30s...this is great!"

"We are a simple, uncluttered place. Contemporary but not fussy, we want a traditional environment where everyone feels welcome. We don't want to be pretentious," Palmer says. Judging from the full house on opening night, Martin's off Madison appears well on its way to achieving this lifetime goal of Martin Palmer.

Martin's off Madison is located at 1413 – 14th Avenue, Seattle 206.325.7000 or martinsoffmadison.com

making the

TRANSAMERICA DIRECTOR
DUNCAN TUCKER

CROSSES THE GENDER LINE



by Sara Michelle Fetters

Filmmaker, and former Evergreen State Community College student, Duncan Tucker just wanted to make a road movie, to delve into stories and ideas that mattered and spoke to him. He never expected to cause such a ruckus.

"I wanted to tell a story about issues I had been thinking about and that were important to me," he says. "Things dealing with family and the journey of feeling different and alone on the road to acceptance; how the need to wall up your heart-it's easy in this world to become defensive and walled-off in order to survive-and how our job on this planet is to breakdown those walls and open up to all the pains and the joys we could possibly feel. And that's what I was thinking about, thinking about a story [concerning] a parent and child who didn't know each other on a journey. Road movies have become such metaphors for interior journeys of self-discovery, and that's what I was looking for.

"Then I met a woman in L.A. who told me she was [transgender] and it really night's revelries were still more than a little bit evident on both out parts. But as the mist over the Pike Place Market cleared and the Olympic Mountains came into view across the Puget Sound, a little lack of sleep didn't stop either of us from diving headlong into an in-depth discussion.

"[Financing] this was impossible," explains Tucker. "We [producers Linda Moran, Rene Bastian, Sebastian Dungan and I] knocked on all the doors of all the people who occasionally finance independent films. But they didn't believe in the material, they didn't believe it was castable and they didn't know what the market for it was. And they didn't know me. I was an unknown director; we had four big counts against us from the start and things were definitely grim."

being introduced to friends within the community and explained what I wanted to do with this movie, I discovered that these women all had an eagerness to share

"The boys, on the other hand, were really lost kids. I mean, some of them were scary, even dangerous, and I fear that a lot of them ended up in jail or dead or are drug addicts. They're really cut-off and untrusting and so eager to impress it is really hard to get to the truth of what their story really is."

The combination of the two proved to be mesmerizing for Tucker, but it also made him strive even harder to make sure he was truthful to both sides of the story. "It was totally important to remain truthful to these people and issues," says Tucker. "I hope that anyone seeing this movie, first-off that they'll be really entertained and engaged and surprised and taken on a roller coaster ride, but I also hope that they feel they are hanging out with real people and that the [film] never shirked from who these characters really are."

Any movie dealing with these issues-masked in the colors of a road movie, no less-can't help but come perilously close to promoting stereotypes and clichés instead of commenting on them, but Tucker hopes viewers are going to feel he balanced that particular tightrope successfully. "I kind of think it is the kiss of death to try and think in terms of political correctness and educating the masses," he explains. "I chose to write a story about a 'stealth' trans woman, a woman who could pass—maybe she doesn't always pass but she mostly passes—in everyday life, and that she was very educated, conservative and somewhat persnickety. From that, I just told the truth of her story with as much verisimilitude and accuracy as I could.

"I couldn't even scratch the surface of some of the amazing, wonderful stories I learned from many of these trans women so included a scene (a dinner party sequence in Dallas) because real [transgender] women needed to have a presence in this film. I needed to show some of that variety."

But, as hard as the filmmaker worked to make his script true-to-life, none of it would have mattered without an actress like Huffman in the lead role. Tucker knew that, and it tickled him pink to think he had one of independent cinema's unknown darlings eager to take on the task. Unknown, that is, before a certain television show captured America's consciousness. "I'd always thought [Felicity] was such a cool actor," says Tucker. "I really, in my naiveté, thought I wanted an actor most of America didn't know, didn't want them seeing, for example, Meryl Streep portraying a trans woman. I wanted it to be a real character discovery. But then she got this pilot for Desperate Housewives and we had to rush into pre-production and then

production and I was peeved that this [television series] was getting in my way. But then I thought maybe, just maybe, it would be a little bit of an attention grabber for us and that wouldn't be so bad. Then [the show] turned into this phenomenon and then she won the Emmy, and I suddenly had to realize that this was great for us and give up on my naive fantasy of having her being 'discovered' by my film.

"Still, it's fine, I mean this performance is so transformative people who know her don't recognize her. I've had people before there was a bit of buzz around the movie see [it] and ask which one was Felicity Huffman right after they got done watching the movie. That certainly must mean something, right?"

It means Oscar talk, lots of it, former Miramax honchos Bob and Harvey Weinstein choosing Transamerica as their first film festival acquisition for their new company and positioning the picture's release smack-dab in the heart of Academy Award voting season. All this buzz, however, just makes Tucker laugh. "I am so surprised when anyone says they've heard about my movie," he chuckles.

As we talk, I can't help but tell him how much Transamerica reminds me of some of John Cassavettes more intimate work. "I've heard that before," he responds, "and while I admire Cassavettes he's definitely not somebody that consciously influences me. I mean, a filmmaker that influences me [is] Ang Lee, just his directorial style alone." And what about just before he commenced filming on this? What did Tucker respond to the most? "Movies that were in my head at the time were Y Tu Mama También, Central Station and, a movie I just loved, You Can Count On Me. But, I also have to say, The Lord of the Rings was a huge influence."

"I call this The Lord of the Rings of tranny movies," he chuckles. "Almost as if Bree and Frodo are together on an epic quest they did not want to go on to get rid of something they never wanted to have. I just wanted this to be its own grand adventure, and I hope I've done that."

Tucker ponders things for a moment. "Listen," he says, "life is funny...the trans people often taught me of the great humor you often have to greet sadness, difficulty and adversity with. It's a survival mechanism.

"Besides, life is hilarious! The other side of tragedy is comedy. The other side of comedy is tragedy. I hope people get that when they watch this. Heck, [maybe] they'll learn something and come away with a deeper understanding of what it means to be different, too."



surprised me. Her stories were so alternately hilarious and sad, she was such a survivor, and [they] really moved me. So, I went out and started doing some research and light bulbs started flashing on and off and the rest is, well, you know..."

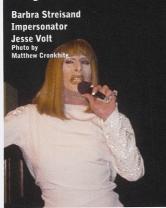
The rest is Transamerica, a small independent feature from the freshman writer-director starring *Desperate Housewives'* **Felicity Huffman** that's causing such a sensation with Oscar talk swirling around both her performance and Tucker's script. I met up with the low-key and self-effacing filmmaker in his suite the night after a successful local premier as the closing night feature at this year's 10th annual Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. Both of us had actually met the night before at the festival's big after party, and even though it was just after 10 a.m. the effects of last

Transamerica is the story of a preoperative transsexual, Bree (stunningly portrayed by Huffman), who discovers just one week before her surgery she may he the father of a runaway street hustler, Toby (Kevin Zegers, one of the erstwhile survivors in the 2004 remake of Dawn of the Dead), needing someone to help him get cross-country to Los Angeles. Trying not to reveal who she is to the young man. Bree decides to travel with the boy, secretly plotting to drop him off with the stepfather he ran away from as they make their way to California. But things don't go as planned, and as each tries to lie and manipulate the other, a bonding between the two develops, each discovering facets about themselves they never suspected were there.

So, how does one go about researching a coming-of-age road movie about a transsexual and a bisexual street hustler? "It was very different," states the director. "Trans women can be a very self-protective community for great reason. They have often lost friends, family, jobs or can be physically endangered. But once I started gaining their trust and I started



























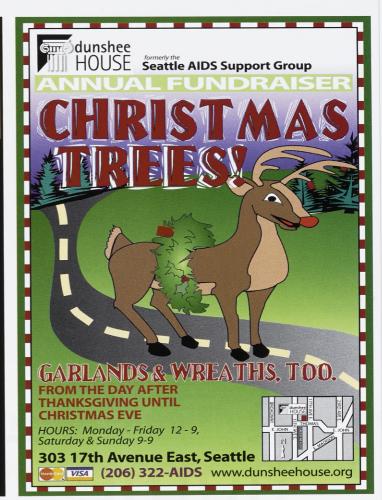


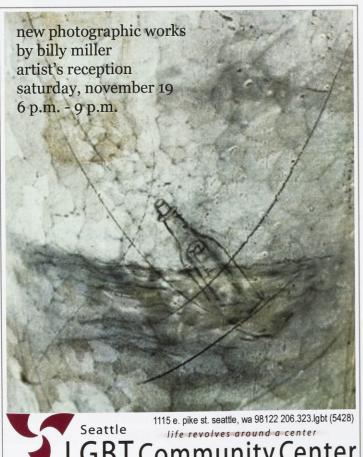


BISTRU BAR&GRILL

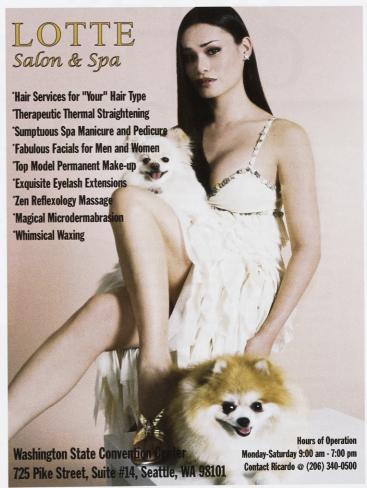
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Eero Saarinen's 1948 Womb chair, made exclusively for Knoll, displays the Finnish-born designer's flair for challenging rules, breaking molds and setting new standards for modern design.

home

solutions

There aren't many businesses in which a casual remark by a gay employee results in the employee's partner joining that company—and earning his way into the position of Vice President and Chief Technology Officer. At Home Office Solutions Group, Founder and CEO Marc Levin did just that. Levin has cultivated an open and welcoming environment in his company since he started Home Office Solutions Group in 1997. "My vision for the company was that it would always be a free and open place," says Levin.

This philosophy was vividly illustrated when Gene Storm, a licensed massage therapist and general manager of Levin's two Ultimate Backrub stores, mentioned that his husband, John Storm didn't qualify for his health insurance "John's being gay was never an issue in considering him for the job," says Levin. "His qualifications, expertise and demeanor proved him to be exactly what we needed." Needless to say, the health insurance and benefit package came along with the position. After joining the company, John quickly moved up the ranks to VP and Chief Technology Officer.

Workplaces as welcoming as Home Office Solutions aren't exactly common, according to Storm. "I'd have a very hard time in a working environment like that," says John Storm, "which is why it's such a pleasure to be employed at Home Office Solutions."

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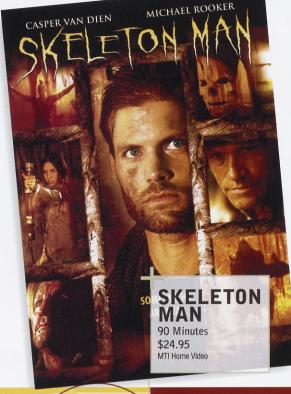
Seattle Counseling Service 1216 Pine Street, Suite 300 Seattle, WA 98101 SCS is home to Project NEON, providing options for gay and bi men who use crystal meth.

www.crystalneon.org



(206) 323-1768

www.seattlecounseling.org





Starring Casper Van Dien (Sleepy Hollow, Starship Troopers) and Michael Rooker (Cliffhanger, The Bone Collector, Skeleton Man tells the story of Cotton Mouth Joe; an Indian warrior who killed his entire tribe 400 years ago. When four Army officers turn up dead, a blind Indian man explains that it was the evil spirit of Cotton Mouth Joe (a.k.a. The Skeleton Man) who did it. Suddenly, the spirit of Cotton Mouth Joe starts appearing.

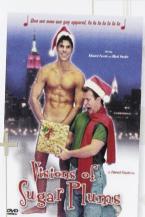


shelf

It's Christmas time in NYC and these actors/fitness trainers/waiters just can't wait to tell us their Christmas story. This amateur but well meaning film is filled with all the usual stereotypes: an overweight black drag queen, a well meaning motherly neighbor, a gym bunny with abs that look like they may bite and his sweet closeted fey lover with religious parents. The parents come to New York for Christmas and the boyfriend has to move out for a few days. All hell breaks loose when mommy and daddy discover an amorous photo in the closet.

VISIONS OF SUGAR PLUMS

115 Minutes \$29.95 Culture Q Connection

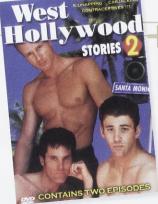


Shy, artistic Kat is secretly in love with Melissa, her rocker grrl roommate. But when she meets Dakota, a disturbed, unbalanced heiress with a past, the three are taken on an emotional roller coaster of unrequited love, jealousy and deceit. When Lenny, an unemployed actor, has a steamy, one-night encounter with Dakota he, too, is thrown into the mix of this moving tale of self-discovery.

BRUSHFIRES

115 Minutes \$29.95 Culture Q Connection





WEST HOLYWOOD STORIES 2

90 Minutes \$19.99 Culture Q Connection San Francisco had Tales of the City, Pittsburg had Queer As Folk and now West Hollywood has their own queer soap opera with a funny, sexy slant centering on the antics of assorted queer residents in WeHo apartment house. There are handsome hunks, evil doctors, a bitchy gossip columnist, a randy old queen and a nude Latino house cleaner. They're all caught up in the sexual turmoil and sexual chaos of the place. Volume Two of this cheese-fest brings us blackmail about gay pornos in our soap star's past, a kidnapping, a sexy gay youth on the run from his dad, the cute Asian boy slips off the wagon and two sexy men are caught making love in the shower by a new wife. Oh boy!

This has been a mixed bag of some really good movies and some really awful ones.



SWANNER **JUDD**

SWANNER

Prime ★ ★ ★ 1/2 Jarhead ★★★

Elizabethtown ★★★

In Her Shoes ★★★

Saw 2 ★★1/2 Doom ★★1/2

Stay (NO STARS)

JUDD

Prime *** Elizabethtown ★★★

Saw 2 ★★

Doom ★★1/2

Stay (NO STARS)

North Country ★★★

The Gospel * Domino (NO STARS)

JUDD Of all the movies we saw for this issue, I'd have to say that my favorite was Elizabethtown. I know what you're thinking, "Brian enjoyed a romantic comedy? Hell has frozen over!" I really enjoyed the film. I liked its pacing and its quirky but accessible characters. Being able to stare at Orlando Bloom for the duration of the movie was a bonus. The movie was not without it's flaws-I hated the ending and Susan Sarandon at the funeral.

SWANNER I liked the ending, but agree, I still can't figure out the Susan Sarandon character. My favorite was probably Prime, which is about a woman (Uma Thurman) who after her divorce starts to date a younger man who just happens to be her therapist's (Meryl Streep) son. I thought it had a strong script and the acting was good. Brian Greenberg who plays the young man in question was very cute as well.

JUDD Uh huh! I'm sure the fact that you're robbing the cradle yourself had nothing to do with why you enjoyed this movie so much. I'm sorry, but I don't see the fun of having my date spit up on my shoulder while he's nibbling my ear. Anyway, I also enjoyed Prime. I liked the humor and the storyline and I particularly liked the ending. Streep was excellent. Actually, the movie made me want to go out for some brisket and kugel.

SWANNER I didn't like the ending as much as

you did. The worst of that we saw was Stay. This was obviously written by some guy on major drugs which weren't shared with the audience. I'd explain the story-but I'm not sure what was happening. My suggestion is to just avoid seeing it.

JUDD Stav was horrible! It was nothing like it was advertised. Stay is one of those pseudo-intellectual films that wants the audience to believe that it's so much more than what it is. The ending left me cheated and upset. Whatever drugs the author was on it made him incoherent and dull. And WHY do they cast Naomi Watts in these films? She is so bland! She's the cafeteria oatmeal of actresses. Speaking of scary movies? What did you think of Saw II?

SWANNER I liked Saw II. I watched the first one the night before, but then sequel is a stand alone. I liked the fact the film moved around a bit more and the killings are still creative and bizarre. The acting was better then in the first with the exception on Donnie Wahlberg. He needs to play smaller less changing roles.

JUDD I hated Saw II, but I hated Saw more. Saw had a better story and had much more tension. I was bored and unimpressed. Saw 2, on the other hand, threw all the tension and mind games aside and decided to stick with the gross-out torture aspect. It made for a much faster movie, but still nothing all that exceptional. Hopefully, by the time Saw 10 gets released direct-to-video

they'll have worked out a decent formula Doom was a fairly decent cheap thrill starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. Another video game based movie, Doom is simple, predictable, but fun.

SWANNER Doom is a nice video game movie. Entertaining but nothing to get too excited about. I liked In Her Shoes about two sisters (Cameron Diaz and Toni Collette) who find that they have more in common than just the same last name. This was a solid chick flick with good performances including Shirley Maclaine's. Zorro was a disappointment. The action was good but the Disney like comedy made me roll my eyes. Jarhead reminded me of Full Metal Jacket and left me empty-I just couldn't warm up to the characters.

JUDD I saw The Gospel starring hunky Boris Kodjoe. The Gospel was a horrible movie, but the music was good, and that's what I went for-outside of Boris, that is. I saw the guaranteed Oscar nominee North Country. It was a decent movie but it wasn't anything special. Charlize Theron will be nominated for Best Actress because she overcame oppression and Frances McDormand will be nominated for best supporting because she had Lou Gehrig's disease. It was one of those types of movies. The other movie I saw was Domino and it was awful. It tried to be this generation's Pulp Fiction or Natural Born Killers and it failed. Miserably.

SWANNER Glad I missed it.

SOUND

NOTHIN'GOIN' ON BUT THE RENT

The release of the Rent Original Motion
Picture Soundtrack adapted from the
multi-Tony winning smash Broadway musical
has been eagerly awaited ever since the film
release was announced in early 2005.

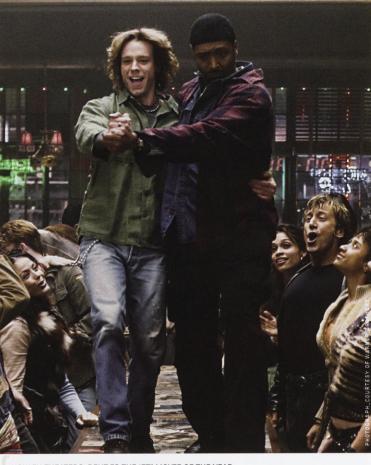
Warner Bros. Records has released of the *Rent Original Motion Picture Soundtrack* featuring music from the forthcoming film adaptation of the multi-Tony winning smash Broadway musical. With **Rob Cavallo** (producer of Green Day, Goo Goo Dolls, Eric Clapton, etc.) at the producer helm, the *Rent Original Motion Picture Soundtrack* features performances by acclaimed actress **Rosario Dawson**, who, in the role of Mimi Marquez sings the show-stopping "Out Tonight." Also featured are **Taye Diggs** who reprises his role as

Benny from the Broadway production, as well as other original cast members Idina Menzel, Law And Order's Jesse L. Martin, Adam Pascal, Anthony Rapp, Wilson Jermaine Heredia and newcomer *Tracie Thoms*.

Highlighting the anthemic single "Seasons Of Love," the *Rent Original Motion Picture Soundtrack* contains almost thirty selections including such extraordinary ensemble pieces as the title track, "Today 4U (Today For You Tomorrow For Me)," "Another Day" and "La Vie Boheme." Among other essential tracks: "I'll Cover You," "One Song Glory" and "Take Me Or Leave Me."

"I've always wanted to be involved with a musical. I believe they are a classic art form that has been somewhat neglected and "Rent" tells a very important and relevant American story. The setting on the lower east side in the late 80's combined a forgotten N.Y.C. community struggling through socio-economic crisis and the threat of AIDS, while reflecting an authentic artist struggle. I was excited by the music and wanted to create arrangements that authentically represented both the heart of the story and its original stylistic intent. I'm excited about this project because I believe it will move people in a profound, emotional way." he concluded.

The Rent Original Motion Picture Soundtrack is being made available in eight special edition formats, each with cover art featuring a different cast member.



NOW IN THEATERS, RENT IS THE "IT" MOVIE OF THE YEAR

RENT
VARIOUS ARTISTS
Original Motion
Picture Soundtrack
Warner Bros / Wea

A-

One of the most influential and enduring productions in theater history, Rent was written by Jonathan Larson and based on Puccini's immortal opera La Boheme. It tells the story of a group of free spirited artists living and loving in New York's East Village in the midst of the AIDS epidemic. Winner of a Pulitzer Prize for Drama, four Tonys and numerous other awards, Rent has since gone on to become an international sensation with touring companies in Australia, Japan, Mexico, the UK, Brazil and elsewhere. The film version is produced by, among others, Robert DeNiro for Revolution Studios and directed by Chris Columbus of Harry Potter and Mrs. Doubtfire renown.

The artist lineup is astounding and include many of the original cast members.

The cast incudes: Adam Pascal, Anthony Rapp, Jesse L. Martin, Taye Diggs, Wilson Jermaine Heredia, Idina Menzel, Jonathan Larson, Rent (Related Recordings), Rosario Dawson. Tracie Thoms

One of the big questions fans of the Broadway version have been asking is what songs will be kept and which will be cut. The official track listing is as follows: Disc 1: Seasons of Love, Rent, You'll See, One Song Glory, Light My Candle, Today 4 U, Tango: Maureen, Life Support, Out Tonight, Another Day, Will I, Santa Fe, I'll Cover You, Over The Moon; Disc 2: La Vie Boheme, I Should Tell You, La Vie Boheme B, Seasons of Love B, Take Me or Leave Me, Without You, I'll Cover You Reprise, Halloween, Goodbye Love, What You Own, Finale A, Your Eyes, Finale B, Love Heals.

For those who have been addicts to the live stage soundtrack, RENT does a good job of staying true to the original version. About 95 percent of the soundtrack is intact and with the lack of several asides and verbal interjections, the difference is not all that noticeable. If the soundtrack, which is rising quickly in CD sales across the country, is any indication of the film's success, RENT will go down in history as one of the top musical films of all time, among the likes of the recent hits *Chicago* and *Moulin Rouge*.



Depeche Mode PLAYING THE ANGEL

Depeche Mode's first CD since 2001's two millionselling Exciter. "I really felt, before we started this album, that there was unfinished business," says Dave Gahan of their 11th studio album, Playing The Angel. And so it is that the world's foremost subversive electronic pop group has reconvened to, as the singer puts it, "make the best record we can." Playing The Angel is an astonishingly fresh, exuberant release from the band who have, over 25 years, sold upwards of 50 million records worldwide and amassed a staggering 38 hit singles in the UK and no fewer than 13 Top 10 albums. A sense of optimism, of renewed vigor, of pleasure at what they've achieved, can be discerned from Playing The Angel. It's also obvious from the sheer delight Dave, Martin and Andy feel at being back with Depeche Mode, on the eve of the release of a brilliant album and a mammoth, sell-out world tour that confirms the enormity of their global audience.



Bette Midler SINGS THE PEGGY LEE SONGBOOK

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This new CD reunites Midler with producer Barry Manilow, her original piano accompanist and musical director. Bette Midler Sings The Peggy Lee Songbook pays tribute to the enduring brilliance and fantastic range of one of the most alluring female jazz vocal stylists of all time, Miss Peggy Lee. Bette Midler conjures soulful interpretations of Peggy Lee's most memorable songs. The DualDisc edition includes a DVD side with never-before-seen home movie footage of Peggy Lee, archival TV and film appearances by Peggy Lee, and interviews with Bette Midler and Peggy Lee's daughter, Nicki Lee Foster, and granddaughter, Holly Foster-Wells.



Terri Clark LIFE GOES ON

Graced with three Platinum Albums, Terri Clark is one of the most unique voices in country music. She is one of very few female country artists who is truly an accomplished guitar player, a rarity in country music. Raised in Alberta, Canada, it was a long road she traveled to reach the heights she has achieved today. Her new CD Life Goes On is an amazing CD that transcends the country genre to speak to all music lovers. Ten years in the making, Life Goes On is about real people and real situations. It brings Clark full circle, back to the things that first interested her in country music. Clark has a reputation as a tothe-wall, give-it-all live performer and has toured with George Strait, Brooks & Dunn, Wynonna Judd, Vince Gill and Reba McEntire on her way to being named the Canadian Country Music Association's



Legendary singer Barbra Streisand has reunited with producer/songwriter/vocalist Barry Gibb for Guilty Pleasures. The eagerly-awaited release of Guilty Pleasures comes 25 years after the pair's first multi-platinum album, Guilty, made pop music history as a worldwide chart-topping smash which helped define the emerging Adult Contemporary pop music genre following its release in 1980. One of the four top-selling albums--alongside Greatest Hits Vol.2, A Christmas Album, and Memories--in Ms. Streisand's extraordinary catalog, the original Guilty became the artist's fifth album to reach the #1 spot on Billboard's Pop Albums chart.

Barbara Streisand & Barry Gibb **GUILTY PLEASURES**



Jane Monheit THE SEASON

MONHEIT

Celebrated singer Jane Monheit is one of jazz's hottest young stars. This is her debut on Epic Records and the fifth studio album of her already established and successful career. It is also the first of her records that Monheit has co-produced. Inspired by her favorite holiday album, Ella Fitzgerald's 1960 Ella Wishes You A Swinging Christmas (Verve), Monheit creates inventive renditions of an eclectic repertoire of songs. The album spans eleven tracks that range from the Carpenters' "Merry Christmas Darling" and the 19th century carol "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" to perennial favorites likes "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "Santa Claus is Coming To Town."



by Randy Hartley

There is nothing quite like soup.
Originally, soup was basic sustenance
—a daily pot of warming nourishment
that brought family and friends
together in communion around the
hearth where it was made.

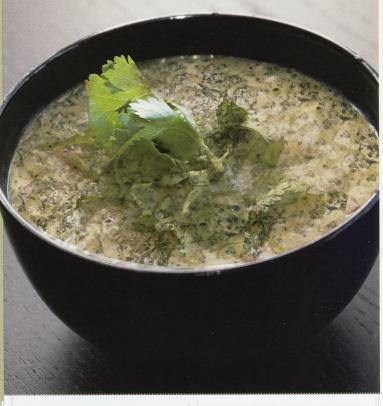
Soup was a meal in itself; and although nowadays it is more often served in small quantity as a first course, soup continues to represent the main body of a meal for many people. Nourishing and comforting, it is beloved by both young and old

Restaurant chefs, in fact, have particular cause to acknowledge the culinary influence of soups. The first eating establishment to be called a restaurant was opened by a Parisian soup vendor, M. Boulanger, in 1765, and served soups exclusively. The establishment, and all its successors, took its name from a motto inscribed in Latin above the entrance: (Translated) "Come to me all of you whose stomachs cry out and I will restore you."

Now, as then, the restorative powers of soup are justly praised. Louis P. De Gouy, a European chef who worked in the United States during the first half of this century, sums up the appeal of soup in The Soup Book, published in 1949. "Soup is cuisine's kindest course," De Gouy wrote. "It breathes reassurance; it steams consolation; after a weary day it promotes sociability...there is nothing like a bowl of hot soup, its wisp of aromatic steam making the nostrils quiver with anticipation."

A most versatile food, soup is the perfect way to balance a menu. Serve a light, appetite stimulating consume or bouillon to elegantly complement a rich main course, or if the main course is light, serve a more substantial pureed soup to round out the meal. Creamed soups are smooth and delicious but should not be served with menus featuring cream sauces. Chilled fresh fruit soups and gazpachos begin summer meals on a refreshingly festive note and still leave room for more. Sturdy, heartwarming vegetable, beef, chicken or cheese soups—too filling to serve as starters—stand on their own as wonderful main dishes.

Although, soups are part of the foundations of our cooking traditions, they are not always treated in today's kitchens with the respect they deserve. Many cooks, seduced by the excessive quantity of canned, packaged and dehydrated products that pass under the guise of soup, have forgotten how delicious the real thing is. But anyone who can cut up a vegetable can make soup in only a little more time than it takes to open a can and heat the contents.



The following recipe is a hearty one dish meal and not difficult to prepare and is perfect for this time of year.

PORTUGUESE KALE SOUP Serves 8

- 1 pound fresh kale, or substitute collard greens
- 1 pound linguiza or chorizo, or substitute any other garlic-seasoned smoked sausage (preferably pork)
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 cup finely chopped onions
- 1 teaspoon finely chopped garlic
- 4 medium-sized boiling potatoes peeled and cut into ¼ inch-thick slices
- 2 quarts chicken stock or canned low sodium
- 9 medium-sized tomatoes, peeled, seeded and finely chopped or substitute 3 cups chopped, drained, canned tomatoes
- 1 cup freshly cooked kidney beans, or substitute 1 cup canned kidney beans thoroughly rinsed in a sieve under cold running water.

Wash the greens under cold running water. With a sharp knife, trim away any bruised or blemished spots and strip the leaves from their stems. Bunch the leaves together and with a knife cut them into strips about ¼ inch wide. Set aside.

Place the sausages in a small skillet and prick them in two or three places with the point of a knife. Add enough water to cover them completely and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce the heat to low and simmer uncovered for 15 minutes. Drain the sausages on paper towels, slice them into ¼ inch-thick rounds and set aside.

In a heavy 6- to 8-quart casserole, warm the oil over moderate heat. Add the onions and garlic and, stirring frequently, cook for about 5 minutes until they are soft and translucent but not brown. Add the potatoes and stock and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce the heat to low, cover the casserole partially and simmer for about 15 minutes, or until the potatoes are soft

With a slotted spoon, transfer the potatoes to a bowl and mash them into a smooth puree with the back of a table fork, or puree them through a food mill or ricer into a bowl. Return the potatoes to the casserole, add the tomatoes and kidney beans, and stir until the ingredients are well mixed. Bring to a boil again; reduce the heat to low and simmer partially covered for 15 minutes.

Stir in the greens and simmer for 3 or 4 minutes longer. Then drop in the reserved sausages and cook for a minute or two to heat them through. Taste for seasoning and serve at once from heated soup bowls or plates.

Serve with plenty of crusty bread and a juicy red wine with fresh berry and pepper flavors, such as Zinfandel.

Bon Appetite!

PRINT

THE DAYS

compiled by Michael Shanahan

Whether he is flamboyantly fashionable with a body chiseled to perfection or chronically dissatisfied and without lasting relationships, the stereotypical extremes of male gay behavior are fueled by the same dark force: shame.

The inevitable byproduct of growing up gay in a straight man's world, the experience of shame in childhood and adolescence sends a boy the message that he is other and that he is worthless. To avoid feeling shameful later in life-and even after he is no longer explicitly shamed by his sexuality-a gay man will quietly rage against the memory of this message and strive to excel dramatically to prove it wrong. The stereotypical manifestation of

THE VELVET RAGE





ALAN DOWNS, PH.D.



Hardcover, 212 pages

DA CAPO LIFELONG BOOKS ISBN: 0738210110

this inner battle is a gay man's success in the arts, fashion and in his body image; as with all the other forms of beauty, creativity and success, he is hiding behind the facades he creates.

Building on the collected psychological research and the author's own experience of the past twenty years, *The Velvet Rage* will help gay men profoundly understand their dichotomous extremes. Explaining the psychological underpinnings of the forces at play in their lives, it also offers helpful strategies to stop the insidious cycle of avoidance and rage. Empowering and validating, *The Velvet*

Rage will influence the public discourse on gay culture and positively change the lives of gay men who read it.

Or will it? Some may find this theory to have some validity, but others may find this to be the extreme vision of someone in the grips of his own theory. What better way to validate oneself than by invalidating everything those around you cling to for positive reinforcement. While some may find Downs book intriguing, others will simply see a man who is self-hating of a community that he may not fit into, and a book that is mere twisted conjecture.

The Complete Guide to Gay & Lesbian Weddings

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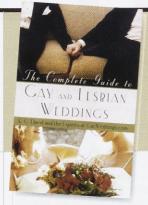
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K.C. David & gayweddings.com Paperback: 220 pages

ST. MARTIN'S PRESS ISBN: 0312338791

Your wedding team is here! Let GayWeddings.com help you and your partner plan a ceremony that suits your taste and budget without losing your mind in the process. The absolute authority for samesex unions on the web. K.C. David and his devoted staff of experts are at your side from the proposal to the honeymoon. The book will help you with Marriage, civil union, or domestic partnership: protecting your rights and assets together; finding gay-friendly venues, caterers, and yes, even clergy; tips for notifying friends and family, and which newspapers run same-sex announcements: ideas from folks who have already tied the knot. Plus it includes a wedding timeline checklist, vow writing exercise, sample menus, budget worksheet and more.

Despite the legal and political controversy over gay weddings, gays and lesbians will



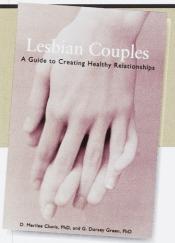
continue to commit to loving relationships with ritual and celebration. The founder of GayWeddings.com and the first openly gay member of the American Bridal Association, David offers pragmatic, step-by-step information and checklists on every aspect of making the big day special, including tips on selecting the location, finding clergy, writing vows, and hiring vendors. He also addresses legal considerations for all types of unions and domestic partnerships and furnishes suggestions for dealing with family and friends. Real-life anecdotes provide additional ideas and inspiration, and there are lists of gay/lesbian organizations, gay-friendly inns, and newspapers that publish same-sex union

Lesbian Couples: A Guide to Creating Healthy Relationships

D Marlilee Clunius, PhD & Dorsey Green, PhD Paperback: 372 pages

SEAL PRESS ISBN: 1580051316

Written by two experienced lesbian therapists. Lesbian Couples covers a range of topics-commitment ceremonies and marriage, living arrangements, work, money, togetherness and separate identities, coming out to family and friends, resolving conflict and understanding each other-and uses a variety of helpful examples and problem-solving techniques, drawing from research done on lesbian couples over the past decade. The book pays special attention to differences of race, class, age and physical ability, and addresses the issues raised when one or both partners are recovering



from alcohol, substance, or sexual abuse. The book also addresses differences that lesbians may encounter in their relationships regarding such issues as butchfemme, transgender identity, bisexuality, monogamy and sadomasochism. Thoroughly readable and extremely helpful, with an updated resource guide, Lesbian Couples is a book that every lesbian

Progressive Life West Coast

NOVEMBER 15 | 05

TGW 4

HIV NEWSWIRE



The Governor has signed Assembly Bill 547, sponsored by Eureka Assembly member Patty Berg, which makes it easier for cities and counties to maintain needle-exchange programs to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. The measure eliminates a section of state law requiring Cities and Counties to declare a health emergency every two weeks to justify continuing needle-exchange programs.

"This bill will allow at least six more Counties to conduct needle-exchange programs and protect not only injection drug users, but their families from infectious disease," said Humboldt County's Public Health Officer. The Governor vetoed a similar bill last year, but this year Berg and her supporters enlisted sponsorship from publichealth officers and key law-enforcement groups including the California Peace Officers' Assn and the California Narcotic Officers' Assn. Berg says that 1500 new infections occur annually through syringe sharing among intravenous drug users, and 5,000 people contract Hepatitis C from syringe sharing.

Needle-exchange programs are now operating in the Counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma and Ventura, and the Cities of Berkeley and Los Angeles. Health officers in several Counties had said they would be more likely to set up programs if Berg's bill became law.

In Sacramento, the Rancho Cordova City Council in mid-October voted unanimously to oppose a proposal to legalize the sale of hypodermic needles without a prescription. Council members cited concerns such as improperly discarded needles and being perceived as condoning illegal drug use. The vote made Rancho Cordova the second city in Sacramento County to formally oppose such a measure, after Folsom.



CHINA ACKNOWLEDGES 42% INCREASE IN HIV CASES

Recorded new cases of HIV/AIDS in China rose by 42 percent in the last 12 months, says the country's health ministry. The increase was attributed in part to an ongoing drive to test thousands of people from a rural province who had used unsafe methods to sell their blood in the 1990s.

The new official numbers show 126,808 cases of HIV, up from 89,000 a year ago. However, both the United Nations and HIV/AIDS workers in China continue to dispute the previous and new numbers, saying they likely represent only a fraction of the actual cases in the country. The UN has warned that 10 million people could be infected in China by 2010 without better prevention.

Earlier this year, an international human rights group accused the Chinese government of routinely harassing and impeding the work of HIV/AIDS workers in the country.



NEW STUDY SAYS FAT RE-D STRIBUTION SYNDROME NOT TRUE

UC-San Francisco scientists say they have disproved the so-called fat re-distribution syndrome among men taking HIV drugs, despite the existence of 22 published, peer-reviewed papers that assumed the existence of "lipodystrophy" or "fat re-distribution syndrome." The previous studies concluded that HIV therapy (mostly including Crixivan) supposedly leads to an increase in visceral (abdominal) fat, along with an accompanying loss of fat in the face and limbs. The resulting weight shift has been tagged "Crix belly." The new study's authors say that changes in fat stigmatize people with HIV and have led some to stop their anti-retroviral therapy.

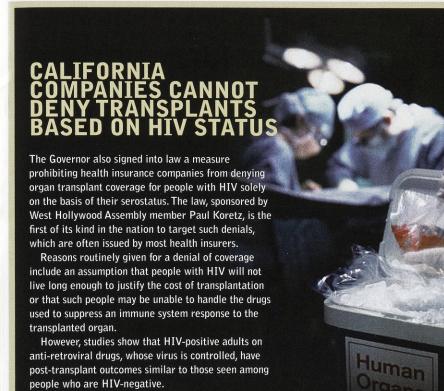
The university scientists joined with researchers at the San Francisco VA Medical Center and found no connection between increased stomach fat and decreased limb fat in men taking anti-retroviral drugs. "There isn't a shred

of evidence that HIV-positive men who lose fat in their legs reciprocally gain fat in their bellies," stated the principal researcher. "The two are totally dissociated."

SF AIDS FOUNDATION SUPPORTS AT-HOME TEST KITS

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) said at the Blood Products Safety Advisory Committee, which is making recommendations to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on criteria that should be used when evaluating applications for over-the-counter homeuse HIV test kits. If at-home HIV test kits are able to meet certain criteria and standards, the SFAF is supportive of bringing these products to market.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 25-30% of the estimated 1.1 million Americans living with HIV are not aware that they are infected and new approaches are needed to improve these figures. If ultimately developed and approved, such test kits would allow



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individuals to test themselves at home and get quick results about their HIV status.

"We must continue to develop innovative and creative approaches that will significantly increase the number of people in our country who know that they are HIV-positive; at-home HIV test kits should be a part of this larger effort," explained Mark Cloutier, the Foundation's executive director.

TECHNOLOGY REVISITS BEEPERS

Twenty years ago, we were surrounded by the beeping of pillboxes going off every four hours to remind folks to take their AZT. Now, Johns Hopkins University researchers say they've updated the concept with a pocket-sized device that gives electronic voice reminders, helping folks remember to take their meds, especially people with slightly impaired

The portable Disease Management Assistance System flashes a light and tells people the exact dosages and medications to take at a given time. DMAS (nicknamed "Jerry" by users) is rechargeable and weighs about as much as a cell phone. It has computer programming to keep track of compliance, and doctors can download and print reports to monitor adherence. In the 4-month study with 58 volunteers, 31 were memory-impaired. Those with the device had a 77 percent adherence rate, while those without - who had counseling about the importance of adherence - had

FDA TO CONSIDER AT-**HOME TESTING...**

a 57 percent adherence rate.

A proposal to let OraSure Technologies sell the OraQuick Rapid HIV Antibody Test over the counter will be discussed by a Food & Drug Administration advisory committee in early November. The test, currently sold only to doctors and clinics, has proven to be effective, safe, and easy to use. The remaining questions are whether people can understand the product's label well enough to administer it to themselves, and whether people should find out test results without counseling.

A 1987 application for an at-home HIV/AIDS test kit stalled when AIDS advocates and public-health officials

said it could cause widespread suicides. A CDC official also suggested to the FDA that such a test could cause "a sudden increase in referrals to already overburdened health clinics."

Today, some AIDS advocates cautiously support at-home testing for people who do not want to go to a clinic or wait for results. Since about a quarter of the nearly 1 million HIV-positive people in the United States do not know they are infected, people spread HIV unknowingly. An at-home test may be "the most powerful strategy we have to bring down HIV infections," said one activist, noting that people tested in doctors' offices often receive little or no counseling, or counseling that can be very short or abrupt.

The president of OraSure said OraQuick's label will include whatever the FDA and the advisory committee deem necessary, such as advice about counseling, a 24-hour staffed counseling center, a hotline number, Web support, or printed material. OraQuick now sells for \$12-17 to doctors and clinics, but the company has not yet determined the over-the-counter price.

Friends Lost in NOVEMBER

William T.

Bill Gooch

Chandler

John Charles

Jochem

Hoyos

James Alten

Cook, Jr.

Raymond T.

Roger W.

Janet Carncross

Timothey Michael Lenzi

NOVEMBER 1996

Robert "Bobbette"

Steve H.

IN LOVING MEMORY

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NOVEMBER 1987 Robert Leroy Smith

Linda Evans

NOVEMBER 1988

Bobby Fox Adrian Reves

NOVEMBER 1989

Chris Armitage

NOVEMBER 1990

Bill Elston Geoffery Scott Palmer Richard Tomasetti Monica Hermans Darvl Goldstucker Jack Getchell Denis Rondeau David Reeder

NOVEMBER 1997

Paul Arthur Young

Dr. Don Sanchez

John Miner Robert W

NOVEMBER 1998 NOVEMBER 1991 Willa M.

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Elijah R. Juan F. John H Rick D. **NOVEMBER 2003**

NOVEMBER 1999

Gail Lang

NOVEMBER 2004

Beverly Campouris Jim Vinson

YEAR UNKNOWN

John Slemmer Brian Toole Will Tucker Jim Wages

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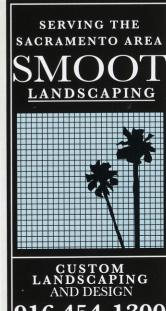
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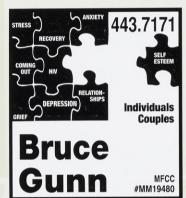
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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

SEATTLE

AIDS/HIV

Gay City Health Project 1513 Broadway, .206.860.6969, gaycity.org

HIV/AIDS Program, Public Health-Seattle & King Co.

400 Yesler Way 3rd Fl., 206.205.7837, metrokc.gov/health/ apu

Lifelong AIDS Alliance 1002 E Seneca St., 206.328.8979, lifelongaidsalliance.org

Multifaith Works 1801 12th Ave Ste A, 206.324.1520 x222, multifaith.org

Open Door Ministries 911 Stewart St., 206.628.1946

Rosehedge:AIDS Housing & Health Care

12718 15th Ave NE, 206.365.6806 x208, rosehedge.org

CHURCHES

Open Door Ministries 911 Stewart St., 206.628.1946

Temple B'nai Torah 15727 NE 4th St, Bellevue, 425.603.9677 x215 templebnaitorah.org

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Seattle LGBT Community Center PMB 1010_1122 East Pike St., 206-323-LGBT,_seattlelgbt.org

ENTERTAINMENT

BS Productions LLC 220 32nd Ave., bsproductionsllc.com

Foolproof's American Voices 513 20th Ave E, 206.325.3554, foolproof.org

Rainbow City Band 12144 Shorewood Dr SW, 206.431.9484, rainbowcityband.com

Seattle Lesbian & Gay Chorus 206.860.SLGC, slgc.org

Seattle Men's Chorus/ Seattle Women's Chorus 319 12th Ave, 206.323.0750 x204, seattlemenschorus.org **Showtunes Theatre Company** PO Box 19845, 206.850.4297, showtunestheatre.org

HEALTH

Brother to Brother_ 206.726.1600, brotobro.com

Entre Hermanos_Phone 206-322-7700, entrehermanos.org

Lesbian Resource Center_Phone 206.322.3953_

Northwest Network 206-517-9670,_nwnetwork.org

Seattle Bisexual Women's Network_ 206-517-7767, geocities.com/SBWN

Sistah 2 Sistah 206.322.7061_

HOTELS/MOTELS

Ace Hotel 2423 1st Ave, 206.448.4721, acehotel.com

Alexis Hotel 1007 1st Ave, 206.624.4844, alexishotel.com

Castle Gate House 1103 15th St.. Bellingham, 866.756.2224

Crowne Plaza - Seattle 1113 6th Ave., 206.676.3921, crowneplazaseattle.com

Hotel Andra 2000 4th Ave, Seattle, 206.448.8600, hotelandra.com

YOUTH

Lambert House 206.322.2515, lamberthouse.org

SAN FRAN

AIDS/HIV

AIDS Emergency Fund 965 Mission St., Ste 630, 415.558.6999

AIDS Legal Referral Panel 1663 Mission St., Ste 500, 415.701.1200, alrp.org Positive Resource Center 785 Market St., 10th Fl., 415.777.0333

CHURCHES

Grace Cathedral 1051 Taylor St., 415.776.6611

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits 1800 Market Street, Box 95, 415.865.5616, baaits.org

Community United Against Violence 160 14th St., 415.777.5500

GLBT Historical Society 657 Market St., #300, 415.777.5455

James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center 415.557.4566

SF Gay and Lesbian Helpline Phone 415.772.4357

SF Pride 1800 Market St., PMB #5, 415.864.3733 sfpride.org

The Center 1800 Market St., 415.865.5555 Transgender Law Center 160 14th St., 415.865.0176

HOTELS/MOTELS

HANDLERY UNION SQUARE HOTEL 351 Geary St., 415.781.7800

KIMPTON HOTELS SAN FRANCISCO

342 Grant Ave., 1.800.KIMPTON, kimptonhotels.com

PARKER GUEST HOUSE 520 Church St., 415.621.3222, parkerquesthouse.com

RENOIR HOTEL SAN FRANCISCO 45 McAllister St., 415.626.5200, renoirhotel.com

WILLOWS INN B&B 710 14th St., 415.431.4770, willowssf.com

SPORTS

SF Frontrunners 584 Castro St., Ste 300, 415.978.2429

Different Spokes SF P.O. Box 14711, 415.282.1647

YOUTH

Lavender Youth Center

127 Collingwood St., 415.703.6161 lyric.org

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